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ABSTRACT

This document reports the oral and written testimony of witnesses who appeared before a House of Representatives hearing centered on the accomplishments of the Job Corps and the need for a new Job Corps center in Fresno, California. (The Job Corps is a 25-year-old program that trains disadvantaged youth and places them in jobs.) Witnesses, who included federal and local officials, and business and union representatives, testified that the Job Corps has had a long record of accomplishments and that having a Job Corps center in Fresno would be good for the area, which has a high dropout and youth unemployment rate. They strongly urged the establishment of a Job Corps center in the city. (KC)

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HEARING ON THE EXPANSION OF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

HEARING HELD IN FRESNO, CA, AUGUST 21, 1992

Serial No. 102-127

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CONTENTS

	Page
Hearing held in Fresno, CA, August 21, 1992	1
Statement of:	
Dean, Stebbins, Executive Director, Fresno City and County Chamber of Commerce; Dallas Robertson, Financial Secretary, Fresno Local 701; Bill Sparks, Representative of the Building Industry and the Home Builders Institute	22
Humphrey, Hon. Karen, Mayor, City of Fresno, CA; Doug Vagim, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Hall of Records; Joseph Samuels, Jr., Chief of Police; and Carlos Mestas, Sheriff Lieutenant	6
Mendoza, Oskar; Laly Palmer; and Armando Garza	37
Velasquez, Ernest, Director, Fresno Department of Social Services; M. J. Peterson, Deputy Director, Fresno Private Industry Council; and Ida Tiscareno, Fresno County Office of Education	27
Williams, Joe	47
Prepared statements, letters, supplemental materials, et cetera:	
Harris, Jeffrey B., Executive Vice President, Building Industry Association of the San Joaquin Valley, prepared statement of	53
Palmer, Laly, prepared statement of	38
Peterson, M. J., Deputy Director, Fresno Private Industry Council, prepared statement of	33
Vagim, Doug, Fresno County Board of Supervisors, material submitted for the record by	54
Williams, Joe, prepared statement of	49

HEARING ON THE EXPANSION OF THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1992

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,
Fresno, CA.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in Fresno, California, Hon. Carl C. Perkins, Chairman, presiding.

Members present: Representatives Perkins, Martinez, and Lehman, (CA).

Chairman PERKINS. Good morning. I would like to begin today by saying how nice it is to be here in Fresno. It's a little bit hotter than where I have been coming from and the temperature has gone up a few degrees, but it is certainly a pleasant change. It's nice to see all these good people out here in this part of the area.

Richard Lehman is a good friend of mine and does a good job in Congress. He's been after me for a particular period of time to come out here and hold this hearing and try to focus on some of the problems that we have and some of the needs that you have for a Job Corps Center in Fresno. That's what we are going to discuss today. We are anxious to listen to the testimony.

I am also very happy to be here today with my colleague from the Education and Labor Committee, Congressman Matthew Martinez, who has traveled from Los Angeles to be with us. Congressman Martinez is currently the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources and the former Chairman of this subcommittee. We welcome Chairman Martinez's insights into the Job Corps Program, and proposals to expand it.

As you all know, today's youth must overcome many obstacles to achieve a stable, decent living. Problems such as drug abuse, gangs and teen pregnancies are just a few of those roadblocks. Many of these young people see absolutely no reason to stay in school and they drop out. They have no diploma, few, if any, skills, and they end up going nowhere.

Even for those who do stay in school there are no guarantees that they will graduate with the practical skills necessary to survive in today's working world. Only one-half of America's high school graduates go on to college. The remainder go directly into the workforce and many simply aren't prepared.

This problem threatens to get worse, because the 21st-century economy will demand even more highly skilled workers than today's workplace does. Established 27 years ago as one of Lyndon

Johnson's Great Society programs, Job Corps is the major employment and training program for economically disadvantaged youth, age 16 to 21. The program successfully prepares nearly 68,000 students annually for employment, at 108 centers across the Nation. This is only a fraction of the youths who would benefit from Job Corps if they only had the chance.

That's why the Job Corps 50/50 plan to serve 50 percent more youths has been proposed. Job Corps trains young workers, teaching them practical and social skills. A main objective of Job Corps is providing students with a GED. Many Job Corps graduates go on to higher education. The program also provides counseling and treatment programs. For many young people Job Corps is the only thing in their lives which provides the ability to achieve a sense of self-worth and pride.

We have seen youths who have come to Job Corps from street gangs, from broken homes, or no homes at all. Now, they are contributing members of our society. These success stories which I have heard over and over in all parts of the country show that this program makes a difference. It is reaching our young people. Job Corps is working.

Some say we can't afford to expand the Job Corps program. However, studies show that for every dollar invested the program returns $1.46 to the United States Treasury, from increased taxes and higher productivity in the workforce. More important, however, is the fact that the money that we invest in training and rehabilitating our youths now will let us avoid the cost of jails and Federal assistance programs in the future.

The fact is, we can't afford not to expand the Job Corps. I will look forward to hearing the testimony today on what this community is doing to enhance Fresno's chances of obtaining a Job Corps Center. I am also interested in exploring suggestions that Job Corps might be able to interact with the Juvenile Justice System and alternative sentencing possibilities. It's a very interesting proposal.

At this time, I would like to recognize a member of the full committee, one who as I said earlier, is a former individual who has Chaired this particular subcommittee, Congressman Matthew Martinez, for any particular remarks that he may have on this matter. Congressman Martinez.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take a second first, to commend you and Mr. Lehman our colleague, for calling this hearing. This hearing is important. Fresno needs the attention brought to the urgent problem.

As you just said, I was previously the Chairman of this committee and am now Chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee. The Human Resources Subcommittee has jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency issues. These are the issues, as I was reading the testimony, that many of the witnesses here today are concerned with.

Just 3 weeks ago, as both of my colleagues know, we passed unanimously in the House the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Reauthorization Bill of 1992, extending the Act for another 4 years. The Act was passed because the Congress recognized that there was a need for technical expertise and advice and

there weren't sufficient resources at a local level to deal with the changing dynamics of juvenile problems in our communities.

When that Act was enacted it was part of a trend to concentrate on removing juveniles from adult lockup. That seemed to be the greater concern, without the concern for what got them there in the first place.

The subcommittee has traveled across the country holding hearings in places like Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska, the House of Omoja in Portland, Oregon. We have visited with people in Los Angeles, Washington and New Mexico. We have heard just about the same thing everywhere we went: there is a great need for help, and a concern of how do we answer the problems that exist.

There were some attitudes to overcome: just lock youths up and throw the key away. But that mind-set perpetuates the failures of the past, giving us generation after generation of gangs and gang problems. If we really want to get tough we have to provide the alternatives for these young people, to make better choices and better lives for themselves and their succeeding generations.

In Portland, Oregon, we saw generations of gangs being repeated. Little children born to gang members, 2 years old, already wearing colors and brandishing weapons. That's not the kind of a life that we want to give to these young people.

Wherever we visited, the overwhelming consensus was that the program people believed that there could be, based on successful experiences, changes made in these otherwise wasted lives. Lives were changed from a nonproductive one to a fruitful one with programs like the Covenant House which has a national network, and programs like Omoja House in Portland, Oregon.

There are many other community-based organizations and people who have committed themselves to saving the lives of our neglected young people, many of whom have just run out of somebody to love them.

I am convinced that we can do it, but there's a lot of ideas that we need to change and a lot of other problems that we need to correct. For one, we have a budget problem from the Federal level on down to the State and local level. Governments are hemorrhaging to death on their debt. The concerns are, do we fix potholes, maintain our police and firefighters, fix deteriorating capital assets that we have in the communities, provide for the people in our communities or dig our way out of the despair and drugs that face our communities.

The solutions that we find in the next few years will affect our Nation far into the 21st century. If we are ever going to enjoy the prosperity of peace in our Nation, peace in our communities and full and meaningful lives for most of our citizens, then we need to solve these problems fast.

Fear and concern are rapidly overtaking our Nation and getting out of control. Many people in Washington and elsewhere feel that we need to do something fast, and we need to do it decisively. That is why we are here today, to examine the need for a Job Corps center here in San Jose.

As we have gone across the country having hearings on youth issues, we have found that there are people trying to reinvent the wheel while others have put wheels on a wagon and are moving

right along. We are here today to gather information to build a bigger wagon, so that we can carry more people to success.

Today, we are here to explore the options and solutions for the troubled youth in your communities. It's a common consensus across the country that if we can turn this generation of at-risk youth around, we may stand a chance of breaking the cycle of poverty, crime and dependency which plagues the disadvantaged in our society. We can also attain a greater peace for our communities and our larger society.

The program that we are going to look at today is Job Corps. It's a program that I am very familiar with as the Chairman has said. It's a program that, as the Chairman said, offers troubled youth that second choice. If there is one thing I can say about it, it's without fault. If there is anything to criticize, it is that it has never been funded to the point where it can reach everyone that needs it.

I think the Appropriations Committee, this last year, has increased funding for 1993. It's one of the few programs that they have increased the appropriations substantially. A while back, in 1988 when I was Chairman of this subcommittee, we envisioned the opening of Job Corps centers at a time when there was an effort by the Department of Labor and the administration to cut Job Corps centers. Mr. Perkins was very active in fighting that movement. One of them was in his own district that had been very effective.

Another center in Arizona, that had just received awards for being one of the top Job Corps centers, ironically was slated by some kind of a scoring system, that the Department of Labor came up with, to be cut. Can you imagine cutting this Job Corps center right after it had received top awards from the President himself?

I believe that the effort to create new Job Corps centers as Mr. Perkins has said, is paramount to the salvation of many of our youth. I offer my support to Chairman Perkins and to my colleague Congressman Lehman, whom I have supported all the years that I have been in Congress. I do have seniority over him. I came 6 months before he did.

Mr. LEHMAN. He never lets me forget that.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I was always reminded that it was through the effort of many supportive Members that we got there, and I should be appreciative of that, and I am. I served with Congressman Lehman for a short while in the California Assembly, and have been really gratified to be serving with him in Congress for all the good work that he has done there and the things that he has worked for on behalf of his district.

I thank you for this opportunity to make this statement, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Congressman Martinez. Now, I would like to turn to an individual who has been very persistent about getting me out here, and has been so mercilessly advocating the cause of a Job Corps center here that I had very little choice but to come.

I would like to turn to Congressman Richard Lehman, for any opening remarks that he may have.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for coming here today. I deeply appreciate it. It's true, I

have asked you for some time to come here. But in fairness, you agreed quite early. I appreciate that very much.

I have worked closely with you over our years in Congress, and have tremendous respect for your ability and what you have done in this area. I also want to thank my colleague, Marty Martinez from Los Angeles, with whom I have worked with during my entire term in Congress and as he stated, served with in the Legislature. He's been a fighter for youth employment and for coming up with innovative programs to change the cycle that we have out there in many of our cities. I think his being here brings an awful lot of prestige to this effort today. I am eternally grateful for that.

I am looking forward to hearing from the witnesses today. We have some distinguished people here also, very concerned. I think the panel is going to be quite impressed by them. Simply put, Mr. Chairman, we must instill and develop in our youth, middle class values, discipline, a strong work ethic and sense of responsibility.

Something constructive must be done to help the youth of Fresno, before it's too late for them and too late for our community. About 2 weeks ago I had an opportunity to take part in the Police Department's ride-along program accompanied by a sergeant, as he patrolled Fresno's streets on a Saturday night.

It was an eye opener for me, and something I would suggest anyone in my position ought to do. That night I saw children who are raising children in this community, with no sense at all of parental responsibilities. It is obvious that our problems will continue to mount, unless we find some way to intervene.

In Fresno today, one of out every three high school students drops out before their class graduates. That's double the average dropout rate for the entire State of California. Each year in this community, more than 3,800 teenage women become pregnant, and nearly one-half give birth. In Fresno, there are nearly 7,000 AFDC households headed by teenagers, and our youth employment rate here exceeds 25 percent.

Crime statistics released earlier this week show robberies in Fresno have increased 55 percent over 1 year ago. Clearly, something must be done, and it must be done here. As the police chief so poignantly pointed out to the City Council this week, every 45 minutes in Fresno a young person comes in contact with law enforcement.

I hope soon to announce another proposal, working with local law enforcement, the courts, probation and business leaders, that could see the establishment of boot camps, a program that would separate juvenile offenders from adults and stress strict military-like discipline for youthful offenders.

Today, we are talking about a Job Corps program. Establishing a job training and partnership program in Fresno would be a big step toward developing a comprehensive approach to dealing with at-risk youth, and hopefully reverse a trend that threatens our community. I strongly support developing a community-based job center here in Fresno.

In Fresno, like other areas of the United States, there are growing numbers of at-risk disadvantaged youth, who need guidance if they are to become self-sufficient individuals who can lead productive lives and develop strong middle class values. For nearly three

decades the Job Corps program has been successful in helping our disadvantaged youth complete their education, learn skills that can stay with them for a lifetime, get jobs, and most important gain self-respect.

Why has this been so successful? It is successful, because there is a public/private partnership that offers comprehensive services to youth between the ages of 16 and 21. It offers youth a safe and supportive 24-hour residential environment, more than 100 occupational training programs from which the students can choose, career placement assistance, remedial education assistance, as well as GED or college preparation.

Studies show that for every dollar invested in this job training program, $1.45 is returned to the economy by way of increased taxes paid by graduates who earn higher wages or reduced public assistance payments and reduced incarceration rates.

I support the proposed Job Corps 50/50 plan, a long term initiative that would serve 50 percent more youth by systematically and incrementally opening 50 new centers over the next decade. Under a proposal that is before Congress, Fresno could be the site of one of five job training programs that will be established across this country.

It is no secret, that the world is a different place for our kids today. There can be no doubt among any of us here, that we need this type of program in Fresno. Mr. Chairman, again, I thank you. I really look forward to the testimony today, as we begin to work together in this community to develop a proposal to deal with this very serious problem. Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Cong: gman Lehman, I thank you for your opening statement and your words of enlightenment, and your words of greeting. I welcome the first panel, and look forward to listening to the testimony that is going to be presented.

I guess we should start with Mayor Karen Humphrey.

STATEMENTS OF HON. KAREN HUMPHREY, MAYOR, CITY OF FRESNO, CA; DOUG VAGIM, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, HALL OF RECORDS; JOSEPH SAMUELS, JR., CHIEF OF POLICE; AND CARLOS MESTAS, SHERIFF LIEUTENANT

Ms. HUMPHREY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. First, on behalf of the Council and the people of the City of Fresno, let me extend a welcome to our city. This is a city where we believe in giving a very warm welcome at this time of the year. In fact, being in Fresno in August may be above and beyond the call of duty.

I also want to thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you about the critical issues facing the youth of the City and county of Fresno, and why we believe the 50/50 plan and the establishment of a Job Corps center in Fresno would help us address them in very significant and fundamental ways.

I appreciate the remarks that have already been made. It tells me that there is a strong recognition of the importance of this program. So, I hope to make it clear why Fresno particularly needs a Job Corps center. First, I do see this as part of a national need.

As a local elected official, I have been fighting for years to increase our investment in the human capital of our Nation. I believe few investments can be better than that we make in the Job Corps. We desperately need the opportunity it provides for job training for young men and women, to help reduce serious social problems, and stimulate economic growth.

This is especially true in Fresno, the sixth largest city in California, and according to recent projections, the fastest growing large city in the Nation. We are by the way, blessed with a Federal official, Congressman Lehman, who has worked very hard to increase the investment to people that pay off for all of us. I want to thank him for his contribution to the district and the Nation.

I represented the citizens of Fresno for 8 years as a council member and 3 years as a Mayor. This is a wonderful city but it has some significant problems. You have heard some of these but they need repeating. We have a school dropout rate which averages over 30 percent, and goes much higher for some ethnic groups. Fresno County has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the United States. There are some 7,000 AFDC households that are headed by teenagers.

The growing youth involvement in crime and gang activity—and I don't have to show you the headlines from the Fresno Bee over the last few weeks to convince you of that. We have a youth unemployment rate of 25 percent. We not only need jobs but one of my highest priorities in office is, we need our young people to be skilled, educated and responsible.

Additionally, Fresno has some special challenges. We have a very high population of Southeast Asian immigrants, most of the Hmong and a great many of them young. This increases our need to provide training and opportunities for youth, and that training must also deal with the issues of language and acculturation.

Also, Fresno has been recently awarded the dubious honor of leading the State of California in child poverty. Nearly 37 percent of our children are poor. I believe the needs which are already desperate, will only grow as these children mature.

The City of Fresno is not just sitting here with our hand out for Federal dollars. We are committed to a variety of programs trying to address these issues, many of them locally funded. We are also involved in collaborative efforts aimed at reducing duplication and better utilizing the resources we do have, not just the dollars but the people resources.

Being able to mobilize these resources makes Fresno uniquely capable of promoting a successful Job Corps center. For example, the City of Fresno is a part of a multi-agency public/private youth collaborative called Fresno Tomorrow, which works to coordinate all services targeted to at-risk youth. We are also a member of the Fresno Compact, a business education partnership, with a goal of graduating every student ready for a dynamic economic environment and for the jobs of the future.

Both of these partnerships as well as our city's incredible voluntary spirit, would provide significant assistance to the Job Corps in accomplishing its mission. The depth of the need, the rapid growth of our population and the existing infrastructure for youth are all strong arguments for bringing Job Corps to Fresno. The nearest

Job Corps center that we have existing is in Sacramento, and it cannot adequately serve our population.

It's time to have Job Corps here in the population center of the San Joaquin Valley, where poverty and population growth have outstripped our resources and threatened the future of all of our young people.

As Mayor of the City of Fresno where we annually struggle to balance budgets in the face of multi-million dollar deficits, I am acutely aware that the demand for public dollars far outstrips the supply. But I am even more aware of the vital human needs in our community. I know that relatively small investments which help young people prepare themselves for full productive citizenship can strengthen our entire Nation both economically and socially.

The Job Corps has a track record of paying back more than the investment made in its programs. Its commitment to building responsible, skilled, contributing young people is invaluable to building a strong community. For all these reasons, I strongly support the people who are working to bring a Job Corps training center to Fresno. I hope that you will take this message back to your colleagues in Washington.

I really appreciate your consideration of my remarks.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much for your remarks this morning, Mayor. I guess we would like to turn next to Hon. Doug Vagim, Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Hall of Records.

Mr. VAGIM. Fresno County is, indeed, honored to have you here. Congressman Martinez and of course, Congressman Lehman, who is our own. Rick and I and Karen sat up there a few months ago and Rick broke the ribbon on this issue in Fresno County.

We are indeed willing and able to seek a Job Corps placement here. The 50/50 plan should include Fresno County for a lot of reasons. First of all, Fresno County along with its valley counties, being uncertified a current Job Corps placement, is in the lowest ranks of the State of California in a medium household income. Indeed, Fresno County just slipped one position this year. We are 55 out of 58 counties in median household income.

LA County as large as it is and as much as it has its problems, it's 23 of 58. It has income and it has an income structure that can help community activities where Fresno County does not have those type of infrastructure and back wallet abilities, for a cross section of our communities being able to support a large amount of the community that is in underserved and is in potential trouble of having—reaching an area of crime and joblessness, and just getting itself in a position one day of not being productive citizens.

Fresno County has taken the lead in trying to turn that around. We have scraped and grabbed out of various departments—I am sure that Ernie Velasquez will be able to expound on it further when we get to him—in a K-through-6 program which takes youths and classifies and looks at youths that are potentially in trouble. At-risk youth, we call them.

We put them through a program that gives them some abilities to have a little bit of help, a little bit of steering that they may not get in their own households. That program is working and working good. Indeed, it is a model—the State is starting to look at it—that maybe they would like to achieve.

Putting a Job Corps here in Fresno County would be a positive adjunct to that, to the youth who move through that program who still have no other place to turn can now seek Job Corps as a position for a long time training for the rest of their lives. We look at that as a very positive venture, and why we are ready to have you come to Fresno County.

Fresno County and the valley counties are double the statewide average of those folks who are on AFDC, double the statewide average. As Karen just mentioned, we lead the Nation unfortunately—in the State of California—of those youth who are in poverty. When you look at double the State average in a per capita basis of those folks who are on public assistance, it's the impact to this community. That does not give us the ability on our own, without some help from Job Corps and other issues like Rick just mentioned in a work camp scenario which from a criminal justice system will be very well needed in this community.

It will allow us to plan for the future for those youth that may possibly and quite probably be nothing but criminals and in trouble and in our jails on a long-term basis. Job Corps will be a positive venue for this community, something that we are all behind. We appreciate your efforts to bring that to us. I know it's a funding consideration at Congress. This community will do whatever it can, whatever it needs, to help you bring a Job Corps to Fresno County.

The valley counties, being underserved like Karen mentioned Sacramento being the closest, San Jose being another Northern California site, does not serve the San Joaquin Valley as well as a Fresno site will. We are the central point in central California. We will receive the three million people who live in this valley, who will eventually be growing by another million by the time we reach the year 2000.

We are the fastest growing area in the State of California. Unfortunately, a lot of the demographics of a population economically are not ones that can help when their kids are in trouble. They have to turn to some agencies, like the city and county. We need your help.

We appreciate whatever the Federal Government can do to bring this. I am sure the local community will help you bring that to fruition. Again, Rick, thank you for bringing this to Fresno. Chairman Perkins, thank you. Mr. Martinez, I know we love the City of San Jose, but when you mention San Jose they used to be in our football league and used to be fighting words. Thank you again, for coming.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you. I am very pleased to have our next two guests with us today. A number of years ago—it's been a number now—I was a Commonwealth Detective for the City of Louisville. At that time I was going through law school and had an opportunity to spend a great deal of time on the projects that we had in Louisville. Later, I became an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney.

We had the opportunity in the Career Criminal Bureau to deal on a regular basis with some disadvantaged youths. Certainly, I think that it's imperative at this juncture that we address the problems of these young people. I am very pleased to have both the

Police Chief and Lieutenant here with us today, to be involved in this particular program at this juncture.

It's terribly important that we have input from exactly this type of resource at this stage. I would like to call now upon Joseph Samuels, Jr., who is the Chief of Police here, and listen to what remarks that he can bring to the subcommittee.

Mr. SAMUELS. Mr. Chairman, Congressman Lehman and Congressman Martinez, I am very pleased at the opportunity to afford you my views regarding expansion of the Job Corps program and location of a center here, in Fresno. I lend wholeheartedly, my support to the program.

It should not be a surprise or difficult for you to understand why it's important for law enforcement to speak out on this issue. While there are as many explanations as there are people in this room for the causes of the crime increases that are occurring throughout this Nation, one plausible and generally accepted explanation is the prevalence of unemployment and the lack of job skills among young people.

The Attorney General of the United States recently released a report entitled: Combating Violent Crime, 24 Recommendations to Strengthen Criminal Justice. One of the recommendations is as follows. Invest in quality law enforcement personnel and coordinate the use of social welfare resources with law enforcement resources. As effective as law enforcement may be in dealing with street-level crimes and violence, unless there is a commitment to address the underlying conditions that breed crime, we will forever be chasing a moving target.

By linking enforcement with employment, there is a greater hope for an improved quality of life for citizens and neighborhoods.

The Job Corps program provides an opportunity for law enforcement to assess the work ethic and performance of young people who may be considering employment with us, either as a sworn police officer or in a civilian capacity. In either case, the highly structured rule driven team environment of a police agency requires that all prospective employees have some sort of track record, some track record which will aid our determination as to whether the positions that we have to offer are a good fit with the personality and performance records of young people who may seek them.

As I envision it, a young person could serve in the Job Corps program and then after developing and enhancing his or her skills, compete for a position as a police cadet or clerk for example. While working in that capacity he or she could further his or her education. With all the educational requirements having been met and a positive work history developed, I would welcome the opportunity to select that person to serve in the honorable and decent profession of police work.

What greater service and sacrifice can one render to his or her community? Let me personalize this a little bit. You see many of the young people who would participate and benefit from this program have backgrounds similar to my own.

I was fortunate enough to find employment as a young person, as a teenager, and overcome some of the obstacles that were in front of me. My entrance into the law enforcement profession may not

have even happened, had I not had the opportunity to develop a track record.

The young people throughout the City and County of Fresno that I care about may need help from you. I would urge that you give favorable funding consideration to the expansion of a Job Corps program. I agree, that the juvenile justice system is in disarray, and needs an overhaul. Whatever modifications may be made, they must be holistic in nature. You cannot believe that just by legislation and laws alone that we are going to arrive at a safer community. We have to address those underlying conditions in a holistic manner.

Several times throughout this year my department, the Mayor, the City Council and numerous other agencies, organizations and individuals, have taken the time to listen to this community's young people. What we heard was, no one listens to us. No one cares about us. No one addresses our needs and our concerns. No one respects us, not the schools, not government, not the police, and sometimes not even our parents.

I am here today, to speak up on their behalf. I listened to them, and my views and the position that I have offered is in support of this Job Corps center location here in Fresno because of those young people who think that we don't care.

I would participate in any questions. Thank you very much.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Chief. That was very poignant testimony. I appreciate very much your coming over. Now, we would turn to Lieutenant Carlos Mestas.

Mr. MESTAS. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Congressmen Lehman and Martinez. I am here representing Sheriff Magarian, and I would like to convey his regrets that he is not here. He had a personal commitment that he had to make today and at the last minute he sent me.

As you know, Sheriff Magarian is an extreme believer in prevention programs. We currently do have the DARE program, anti-tobacco, anti-alcohol programs in partnerships with the different school districts. What he does want to do is lend his support in anything else that our department can do.

One thing in discussing with him yesterday, we discussed a little bit about poverty. I know Mayor Humphrey mentioned about the poverty and said that she doesn't have to bring out the headlines and what have you. Yesterday I was looking through my week of stacks of newspapers and—glance through them on a daily basis and stack the ones that I want to read and the other ones that I don't want to read I throw those away.

Fresno Children's Force in the State. Grand Jury says youth need help. All in Fresno County. I pride myself as a street cop. Although I am in management now, I still go out on the street and still hit the bricks, and I try to see. Having grown up in an area that was a poverty area—I grew up in the area of Boyle Heights in East Los Angeles and I believe Congressman Martinez knows that area well. I did go to school in Monterey Park, but grew up basically in Boyle Heights.

I was lucky enough to have a job. Someone gave me a job as a teenager in a print shop. A lot of the kids that I grew up with are in prison or are dead, and that's all there is to it. Poverty does not

necessarily mean that there's going to be trouble. But coupled with single parent families, lack of recreational activities, diminishing educational funds as well as increasing gang activity and peer pressure, that spells trouble.

Fresno basically has been seen as a small town rural community. It's not. We have big league problems. It's a big league city, and we need big league solutions. We, in the service department and the Sheriff, most heatedly do back the Job Corps program. Thank you very much.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much. At this time we are going to ask some questions of the panel. I would like to begin with Congressman Lehman, to see if he has any questions that he would like to ask of the panel.

Mr. LEHMAN. I do have a question, but I just want to comment first for the record. We have support for this Job Corps proposal from both the principal levels of government and the city and the county. We also have support from private industry which you will find out later on. It's a bipartisan effort here, and I think that's one of the things that is going to make it more likely that we can be successful.

I think it's indicative that we hear all the bad things that are happening, everyone in this community is trying to pull together to solve the problem. We are not blaming each other, we are trying to solve it. I think that's real encouraging.

The question I want to ask is to the Lieutenant and the Chief. It's one thing if we come up with a proposal that looks real good on paper that is theoretically sound. It's another thing to translate that into something out there that really works. Too often at the Federal level we come up with ideas, we spend money on them, and then something happens along the way and there are no positive results and the money is gone.

I guess the key to this program—because I am confident that we could develop a training center, and I am confident that we could have people there to teach—the key to this program is can we identify those youths who could benefit from this, and can we get them into the program. I guess what I want to ask is, can at-risk youth be identified?

Obviously there is a need, but do you see—I guess I will start with the Chief—receptiveness on the other side out there on the youth side, to get involved in something like this?

Mr. SAMUELS. Absolutely. Let me point out that several months ago when we held the—essentially what we described as a gang forum on the city back in January—we had about 500 youths come and tell us what their needs and concerns were. It ran the whole spectrum, in terms of the demographic profile. Yes, there were some from fairly well-off neighborhoods. There were others, also, from the block.

They all were saying pretty much the same thing. They were saying, again, no one cares. One of the things that came out loud and clear is the lack of employment opportunities, is that force which caused them to get involved in violence and crime and particularly drug dealing. I don't have any hard data but I would wager a substantial bet that if you look at those folks that we wind up arresting, particularly as they get older—they start off as young

persons and become older—you find out that the people who wind up most often in the criminal justice system don't have employment histories.

They have never engaged in significant and meaningful employment over time. To the extent that we can intervene and interrupt that cycle, I think it will keep less people out of the criminal justice system and certainly less cost to taxpayers.

Mr. LEHMAN. Lieutenant?

Mr. MESTAS. One of the things that I have seen—I am not trying to throw anything at any organization or other than—I have seen a lot of programs that hire teenagers. What I have seen is that it is safe to hire the ones that they know are going to succeed. I think we have to take a risk at the ones that are the hardcore, the ones that are really going down the wrong path. Those are the ones that we really have to take and put in a position—put them in a job position—that has responsibility. Not just do the time and get paid for it, but do the time and have some responsibility and do the job.

You have to do the job. If you don't do the job it teaches nothing. I see some programs—not present—I have seen some programs where kids just show up and do the time, sitting around and talking and what have you and they are getting paid, but it doesn't show them anything. You have to show responsibility.

That's why a structured and very well structured program that gives people and shows people responsibility is what we need.

Mr. LEHMAN. Mayor, do you want to comment?

Ms. HUMPHREY. Yes. I wanted to pick up a little bit on what Carlos said, to say that we have taken some risks this summer. Fresno decided it wasn't going to let happen what happened in Los Angeles and some other communities. We mobilized people from all the agencies in the private sector to talk about how we could increase job opportunities and recreational opportunities immediately this summer.

We are about to convert that effort into a longer-term effort and to bring in existing youth job employment activities in the community. Out of that effort young people, gang members, kids whose only track record of doing anything had been to make trouble, put together two major community events over the last month and one-half. They went out asking businesses to contribute money and resources, put together programs, worked with the police department to arrange security, put in a one-half day car show and music festival at a local park. Then, did it again for 2 days at the local fairgrounds.

Just the very act of being part of that organization gave some of those young people jobs. That's just scratching the surface. That kind of opportunity to be involved in structured activity goes far deeper. A lot of the young people who need to be helped maybe in a much worse place than some of the kids who participated in that.

The other thing that I just wanted to reinforce, because of Fresno Tomorrow, because we have developed collaborative efforts already—this is a collaborative community—I think we are really in a good place to help that kind of identification and not just bring to bear the job training, but other resources that that young person may need to increase their chances of success.

I think this is as good a community as any, to be able to identify the kids who need the help and who can benefit from it, and then to turn that back into the community for expanded efforts in other directions.

Mr. LEHMAN. Rick.

Mr. VAGIM. As I mentioned before, the youth at risk assessment—we have a significant database constantly being updated. That program allows them to give you candidates immediately. The other parts of Fresno County's operation, as you know the requirement to the FDC program, probation through their requirements, all have assessment and case management assistance.

We are all analyzing and watching and have social workers and case workers on every person and family that has a need for some assistance. We have I think, one of the best systems in the State. We are ready, willing and able, to give you whatever information you need for demographics.

I feel Fresno County is ready, willing and able, to have the Job Corps placement here in Fresno County.

Mr. MESTAS. One of the things that I want to mention is that I am sure the Chief would agree, that there is no better gauge or person to gauge than the street cop on who is at-risk. I think that I know that the Sheriff would be wholeheartedly in support of using our officers to——

Mr. LEHMAN. Identify the kids——

Mr. MESTAS. Are their officers, working in school districts, who have one-to-one contact with the students on a daily basis. That's an excellent program that can pinpoint and identify those people.

Mr. LEHMAN. I want to acknowledge the Chief's comments. I really thought he put his money where his mouth is, when he said that his department would be willing to look at this as a source for people to hire. I think that was one hell of a statement, and I appreciate it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Lehman. Congressman Martinez, do you have any questions?

Mr. MARTINEZ. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have a few, highlighting aspects of where you are and where you want to go and where you need to go.

Mayor Humphrey, you mentioned in your testimony the distance from Fresno to the closest Job Corps center now. Initially as it was developed, the Job Corps—there are what, 126 centers—we weren't able to put a center in every community. So, it was envisioned that we would establish centers geographically located close enough to communities where young people could be transported.

I think initially they didn't think about the non-residential portion of it. There's a window of 10 percent in the Job Corps programs that we use for non-residential attendance. That 10 percent non-residential participation is only beneficial to those who are living within the proximity of a Job Corps center or commuting distance, for which there is none close to Fresno.

Your closest one you say is San Jose?

Ms. HUMPHREY. Sacramento. I believe there's one in Bakersfield.

Mr. MARTINEZ. That's what, a 3-hour drive?

Mr. VAGIM. It's about almost the same distance, when you look at the travel time between San Jose and Fresno—Sacramento and Fresno.

Mr. MARTINEZ. You have one in Los Angeles. I imagine that some of your young people are diverted to Los Angeles too.

Mr. VAGIM. With the population base in Los Angeles, I doubt it.

Mr. MARTINEZ. There are some though, I know. I have been to the Los Angeles Center several times. That's a 4-hour drive, let's say, if you wanted to take advantage of 10 percent non-residential window.

The Department of Labor has for some time—and when Elizabeth Dole was Secretary of Labor we were working with them in the same effort—been trying to expand that 10 percent window, to double it to 20 percent non-residency. At one point in time the Department of Labor wanted to make it an all non-residential program. Let me tell you why the residential part is so important.

It removes young people from a negative environment, and with some young people that's the only way they can be helped out of their situation, by removing them from that negative environment. We fought that attempt vehemently, although we realized that there could be an expansion of the program if they did increase the percentage of non-residential provided.

As all of you have been testifying here today, it brings to mind that in 1988 we made an attempt to expand Job Corps centers at a time—as I said earlier in my statement—when they wanted to do something. Also in 1982, we identified some priorities and established some priorities with the Appropriations Committee which, fortunately for all of us, they adhered to those priorities that were established in 1992.

One idea was, from listening to your testimony, ideal for this community to establish a developmental center where you would provide a one-stop shopping center for kids with problems beyond the Job Corps opportunity. There was $4,700,000 appropriated for that.

Mr. LEHMAN. We'll take one of those too.

Mr. MARTINEZ. There are two ways to approach this. There was also $100,000 appropriated in there for the building of a center. That is something that we need to look at. Rick and I, we can work on moving towards that.

The other way is that in the six sites that were established but not identified in 1988 and subsequently determined by the Department of Labor where those sites would go. Two of them have been established, three of them are under construction. There is a fifth one that, because of problems of the site designation, it's going to have to be redesignated.

That's another thing that we have to look at Rick, how we get San Jose——

Mr. LEHMAN. You mean Fresno.

Chairman PERKINS. No, he means San Jose.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I think San Jose has enough. There are two ways to approach this thing. From what Doug is saying—Hon. Vagim—and Carlos and Joseph you have all said and identified some of the things that we have identified in the hearings that we have held

across the country. I am particularly interested in your statement about the root cause of the problems, lack of respect.

I have always translated my life, before you can love someone you have to respect them. You can't claim love if you don't respect them. Love and respect are synonymous, one with the other. When I visited Boys Town, there were a lot of young people that ended up there, we talked to the youth about how they came to be there. There was a common factor: they felt that nobody respected them. What it really translated into is—a statement from one of the young people—I just ran out of somebody to really love me, really truly love me. That's why I am here now. He has a bright future because of the program there.

Carlos, you mentioned growing up in Boyle Heights, so you and I are very familiar with the kinds of problems that exist there. It should be a great advantage to you in the duties that you have now. You made the statement about your good fortune versus your peers'. Let me tell you something. I once went back into my yearbook and went back to my earlier grades.

I finally came to the conclusion that over one-half of the children that started in kindergarten didn't graduate high school. Over one-half didn't graduate high school. Those statistics are alarmingly as bad today if not worse, because of all the other things.

I guess my general question to all the panel is that in your capacity, the roles that you have now and the information that has come to you and the situations that you have seen, how much of an impact can having something like a Job Corps in the Fresno area—see, I did it right that time—mean to the statistics that you have quoted here today?

Ms. HUMPHREY. I think it would be significantly improved over time. It wouldn't be quick. Nothing worth accomplishing in this society, I think, is quick or easy. Let me be real clear. Distance is less an issue for us in California. A 3-hour drive is nothing.

I one time had the pleasure of living in the City of Louisville with relatives in Cincinnati. The 3-hour drive between those was a very major undertaking. But in California, we do it all the time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Would you permit me to interrupt you at that point. It is true what you are saying, except you have to take into consideration the young people that you would be serving would not be willing to travel because they don't have cars. At that income level they don't have cars.

Ms. HUMPHREY. If distance were the major issue, I don't think that's the problem. The problem is the population. The City of Fresno is the fastest growing of the top 50 cities in the United States. When I came here in 1970, the city's population was 171,000 and the metropolitan area was maybe about one-quarter of a million.

We now have a city of 400,000 and a metropolitan area of over one-half million, and it is growing at the rate of 3 to 5 percent per year depending on whose statistics you want. Even if kids could get from here to Sacramento or San Jose or Los Angeles—which some of them possibly could—there is not going to be room for them. California's population is just absolutely staggering.

Fresno has become the population center of the fastest growing region of California, and we particularly because of the rapid

influx of Southeast Asian immigrants—we went from zero to 50 to 55,000 in about 11 and 12 years. Many of them came here not even literate in their own language. There has been enormous progress, and Mr. Velasquez I am sure can tell you some of that specific progress.

We have to absolutely deal with the population needs of this area. I would be perfectly happy to see a center that was broader than a Job Corps center but it needs to have that type of Job Corps component. The fundamental underlying need we have to address for youth in our society is having them reach the age of adulthood ready, able, and responsible enough to take jobs. Then, we also need to make sure there are jobs for them.

We have too many 18-, 19- and 20-year olds in this community and in the State and in this Nation, who are not prepared educationally or any other way for even some of the most minimal skill level jobs. The Job Corps can't solve the whole problem. The Job Corps is a critical component to the at-risk youth. We have larger than our share of at-risk youth.

Whatever Congress—we are happy for any kind of assistance that we can get. A center must basically be oriented to getting those kids job-ready. The more comprehensive the service is, the better. Fresno is really tuned into that whole concept.

Mr. VAGIM. Congressman Martinez, I think a couple of areas need to be concentrated on for the aspect of potential ease of travel and the ability for a community to be served by any remote or distant facility.

One is, just the pure economic demographics. We are in the bottom third here in the Valley of the income levels of the State of California. As I said before, we are rated 55 out of 58 counties in median household income.

The unemployment rate here in Fresno and the Valley is the highest in the State of California. We are approaching somewhere in the neighborhood of 12 to 16 percent, depending on the statistics that you look at. If you look at the real unemployment rate those are dropped off the—we are getting close to 20 percent. Some of our communities are reaching 40, 50 and 60 percent of the 15 cities in Fresno County, of unemployment.

So, there isn't the job market here that you might find in the other communities that have the ability to serve those kids that go to those Job Corps. And, the fact that this community in its pure poverty level is being doubled the statewide average. There is just not enough positions as you would see in other communities to be able to uplift a community around itself for the fact that there is a large component of economic wealth able to support the economic underserved.

We are on the bottom of that scale. That's why the Valley counties are always foiling, particularly in its urbanization time as we are growing as Karen said we are, we are the fastest growing area in the State of California. The Valley is 20 percent of the State. Typically, it's the most underserved by the State and Federal Government. Twenty percent, and we will be growing one million fold in this Valley by the year 2000.

That is a significant number of people, significant demographics for poverty and inability because of lack of jobs in the job market,

for this community to have to depend on the San Jose's and Sacramento's and Los Angeles' to serve us. We need more support here in the Valley. As Karen said, we are the outside city of the Asian community, out of the Asian continent. We are the largest component of Southeast Asia outside of Southeast Asia.

We have more Hmongs in this valley and in this community than anywhere else in the United States. That's why, when Federal Government cuts back on its refugee assistance from 36 months cash assistance down to 4 months with cash assistance, we are the largest single components of folks in a per capita basis of folk who are mom and pop at home that don't have jobs with kids.

Indeed, we led the first 3 months of last year—we led in sheer numbers and not percentage—in new enrollments in the AFDC—the youth category, AFDC category. That's the mom and pop at home with kids. We have led in sheer numbers of new applicants to that program in the State of California. We have led LA County. We have more applicants than in the Los Angeles County.

A community of nine million folks, and we are a community of 700,000. The impact to this community are immense. With the cutback of welfare, the cutback of subsistence because of the State and Federal budget constraints, just impacts us even more. Wherever we can get assistance we need assistance.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I think you have made some tremendous arguments, both you and the Mayor, on the kinds of arguments that would go into trying to make a proposal at the Department of Labor to try to redesignate that Job Corps center here. We may make the slip on Fresno and San Jose, but we understand unlike Quayle, the difference in family values. There are mom and pop homes that need more than just somebody telling them that they got to have traditional family values with the mom and pop in every home because they are suffering too.

Carlos?

Mr. MESTAS. I have nothing else, other than the Sheriff is willing to support in any way we can. Like I say, he is—prevention is very big with the Sheriff. He has shown it in some of the programs that we have started in our department and in this county.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Thank you. One last question, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SAMUELS. Congressman, let me add my point of view to your question.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I will let you do that. Add, from your perspective—you made the correlation between poverty and crime in your statement which is something that we have discovered on the Human Resources Subcommittee as we have traveled across the country and visited these places.

A lot of the reasons that a lot of the young people are involved in those criminal activities is because it's the only choice they have. They do not have jobs and they do not have stable family lives, because nobody in the family has a job. When you respond to the other, I wish you would emphasize that a little bit for the record.

Mr. SAMUELS. Sure. I think you realize the optimum benefit both for the program and for the participants that are in the program, that it has to be a support system. For that young person going through the job program, for him or her to go to another city robs

and deprives him of that support system. That system, oftentimes, is an individual, a role model or mentor.

It could be a teacher. It could be a police officer. It could be a minister or pastor. It could be his or her fellow gang member as a support system. When you take a kid out of this environment and say in order for you to participate in this program you have to go to San Jose or Sacramento or LA, there is no support system. It makes it more difficult at least in my view, to successfully conclude the program and then realize the benefit for which the program was structured.

There is no secret—again, at least in my view, a correlation between unemployment, poverty and crime. I think you can probably stretch that even further and look at some of the other social services that are lacking. There is a premise, if you will, behind the whole Federal concept of a weed and seed program. You may be familiar with that program.

As it has evolved even right now, the premise is that law enforcement cannot do the job itself. We can go in and conduct these sweeps, take people off the streets and maybe put them in the system, but there is always somebody back to replace them. Therefore, it's incumbent upon all of us to take a look at those underlying conditions, the seed portion if you will, by providing social service support.

From that standpoint it's already a clear recognition on the government's part, and that's why there is so much emphasis at least in my view upon the weed and seed program. It's perhaps a viable alternative to the criminal justice problems.

Mr. MARTINEZ. I appreciate very much your statement. It really points out that from your perspective of law enforcement in the field. You have a pretty good idea of what the weed and seed program should be. Let me alert you to something that you have to be aware of.

If you look at the weed and seed program that was put forth by the administration—that is 90 percent weed, lock them up and throw the key away and 10 percent seed, where you make productive human beings out of people rather than put them in jail. The difference between the administration's proposal and the proposal that was put forth by the task force was just the reverse.

It was a good 60 percent seed to complement that 40 percent weed that is desperately needed and it is needed. At least there was a greater balance. Unfortunately in the deals that are made because of the control of OMB and Darman, we ended up with more of what the administration wanted in that than we did what was realistically an answer to the problems that exist out there.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Martinez. I will try to be brief. Initially, I would like to address a question to Chief Samuels and Mr. Mestas, concerning the alternatives that the local police department would be interested in perhaps looking at.

Would it be agreeable, or do you think it's a realistic alternative to incarceration for juvenile offenders to be placed in Job Corps sites, and are you supportive of this concept?

Mr. SAMUELS. I don't know the full merits of that issue. It is certainly a worthy—at least from my study and involvement in trying

to arrive at a position on the surface. It appears as I mentioned earlier, that the juvenile system is in disarray or needs an overhaul if not surgery.

From the standpoint of looking at alternatives, I think all of us in this business have to keep all of our options open. I think we realize that it requires more than just cops and robbers. I can spend a lot of time in making a lot of arrests but we have done that in this city already, and the crime rate is still not to the point that we are comfortable with.

It requires a lot more creative and innovative thinking on our part, and the alternatives that you cited are worthy. I just don't know enough of the merits of it—I don't know enough about the concept yet, to give you a sound professional opinion.

Mr. LEHMAN. Could I comment on that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Sure.

Mr. LEHMAN. From what I have observed here recently, right now we are doing neither. We are not incarcerating because there is no room for them. The system is completely clogged. We are not doing anything on the other side, as far as developing sound alternatives either. Nothing is happening right now.

I think the key thing here is how you identify these youths. Which ones are not salvageable and are going to end up in prison no matter what you do, and which ones are. We could use our resources there and save a lot of money and save a life. The problem right now in this community is that we aren't doing anything because we don't have the resources. The juvenile hall is clogged and with the State budget crisis right now, I understand that there could be cutbacks in the probation department. It's a tough time here.

Mr. SAMUELS. As you think about it, it's certainly a lot less expensive to put a young person up through the Job Corps program than it is to incarcerate. Information that I am aware of, it costs us roughly $30,000 per year for a youth to house them in a State penal institution.

I don't think we would have that sort of cost through a Job Corps program.

Chairman PERKINS. I certainly concur with that. One of the things that I think is very interesting is we have had an opportunity to visit a Job Corps center. It's a military-like, very disciplined type of atmosphere, that attempts to give the necessary structure that Lieutenant Mestas talked about earlier and put that in their lives.

Certainly, when you are contemplating looking at this program we would be interested in having your response as to whether this would be an appropriate opportunity or not. We would be looking for that at some point in the future.

Lieutenant Mestas.

Mr. MESTAS. The structure that we talk about one side, that would be the incarceration, is a negative structure. That's the peer pressure. Because of the lack of funds, first of all, we don't have the facilities to house offenders. Second of all if we did, we wouldn't have the funds to institute any programs that would be positive as opposed to having the peer pressure within the system

itself, and it just perpetuates into the prison system. It's a never ending problem of creating more problems.

I like the alternative, of being able to put people in a structured program such as a Job Corps as an alternative to sentencing. Like Congressman Lehman mentioned, we are doing neither right now.

We have documented some juveniles that have been arrested seven, eight or nine times for auto theft. They are not incarcerated.

Mr. MARTINEZ. What you are talking about Lieutenant Mestas, is being smart about crime. Saying you are tough is good, but you are talking about being smart about it. Mr. Samuels says the same thing. You were mentioning that equation of $30,000 for each incarceration. In some places it's as high as $42,000 or $47,000.

The other side of the equation which you didn't get is that a Job Corps slot is approximately $8,500. That doesn't serve just one person. Sometimes that serves almost two persons. What you are really equating to is about a little over $5,000 per person versus as high as $42,000 or $47,000. That's a lot of difference.

Mr. MESTAS. We also see the Job Corps person coming out and not being a negative peer pressure on either a sibling or a neighbor or friend. It becomes a positive. If we continue to incarcerate and just continue to throw away the key, it just grows into a cancer. It is a cancer.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Generation after generation of gangs.

Chairman PERKINS. I certainly concur with your comments. Again, I would be interested in seeing your continued development of thought, as far as how that would be utilized on a local basis.

My second question would go to Chairman Vagim and Mayor Humphrey, specifically asking have you looked for the best possible location for a Job Corps center in Fresno at this time, and have you identified any local or State funding for something such as a preliminary architect site proposal.

Mr. VAGIM. We understand one of the criteria that is desired in the placement of a Job Corps site is an existing structure that can be rehabilitated and that kind of thing. In addition, being out of the neighborhood that you would pull your participants from.

I think Fresno County, as I have just laid out to you, is in an economic doldrums not necessarily caused by itself but caused by the world economy as well as the nation and states, has plenty of places that meet that criteria. Believe me if you tell us we are going to get a site, we will get you a site.

Ms. HUMPHREY. I would defer to Ms. Peterson and to the people who have been putting the proposal specifically together, as to how pinned down we are on potential sites. Chairman Vagim is right, there are a number of potential appropriate sites. If those sites end up being within the city and particularly within the possibly the redevelopment area, the city will be bending over backwards to bring whatever resources we have.

I would point out, there aren't many resources at the moment. In fact, the city redevelopment is one of our major resources. We have redirected resources within the city budget already toward an orientation to deal with youth. I think that we would be very willing to do whatever we could to help.

I think perhaps people who will be testifying later can more clearly identify what progress has been made on a specific site.

Chairman PERKINS. I thank you for your comments. Again, any information that we could have that would be more specific would obviously be better in terms of providing a total package of information that would hopefully allow the establishment of such a center at some point in the future.

I thank the first panel for their informed testimony. I think it has been very helpful. We would like to call at this point the second panel.

Dean Stebbins, Chet McCarter and Bill Sparks, please. I guess Dallas Robertson will be here for Chet McCarter. We would like to welcome the panel. Let us begin with Dean Stebbins, Executive Director, Fresno City and County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Stebbins, please proceed. I will correct the record, it's Stebbins Dean.

STATEMENTS OF STEBBINS DEAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRESNO CITY AND COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; DALLAS ROBERTSON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY, FRESNO LOCAL 701; BILL SPARKS, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND THE HOME BUILDERS INSTITUTE

Mr. DEAN. Thank you, Chairman Perkins, Congressman Lehman and Congressman Martinez. The recent analysis by Children Now, a California-based non-profit policy and advocacy organization, ranked California 17th in the Nation with 40,500 or 37 percent of our children under age 18 living in poverty.

Fresno's Private Industry Council has been a leader in providing training and employment opportunities to residents who need it for nearly 10 years now. The Private Industry Council Board is comprised of 17 of the top labor, education, community and business leaders from the Fresno region. They have responsibly managed a $15 million budget, and have a very capable staff led by Charles Francis, Executive Director of the Private Industry Council.

PIP, an educational program for unwed fathers, police cadet programs, summer youth employment training programs and older worker programs, represent a few of the Private Industry Council services that Fresno boasts about.

Through the foresight of this group about a year ago, PIP applied to Congress for a Job Corps training center for our youth. Our need is real. You, as national leaders, hold a key to open an important training door for the residents of our community.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting County Supervisor Sharon Levy stated, there are more murderers in our youth detention center than in our county jail. A study by Fresno's new United Way revealed these alarming statistics. Over 34,000 households, or over 15 percent of all households in Fresno County, live under the poverty guidelines.

Of nearly one billion dollars spent in Fresno country for basic needs, seniors, health and mental services, et cetera, only $50 million was spent on our youth. Fifty-three percent of Fresno County school children receive free lunch meals, while 32 percent of these children are on AFDC. Two hundred and ninety million dollars were distributed throughout Fresno County in AFDC payments last year.

You have heard only a few statistics from the report. As a result of their research, United Way has placed its highest priority on funding youth programs. Our schools need help. According to a study by Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 35 percent of kids entering kindergarten today are not ready to learn. That is double that of just 5 years ago. The number one way to combat this, according to the study, is to improve parent education.

The Job Corps will improve the quality of life for 600, 18- to 21-year olds, enhancing their ability to give their children a better education in the future. Recently, PG&E tested 80 applicants applying for a meter reading position. That's a job requiring an eighth grade education. Only five of those applicants passed that test.

You have heard from the Chief earlier but I will restate it. Fresno Police Department show Fresno's homicide rate close to an all-time high, with almost 5 months left in the year. Our robbery rate increased 55 percent, the highest in the Nation. The lead story in the Fresno Bee Wednesday, August 19th was about our police chief's cry for help in halting the increasing crime rate in our community.

With unemployment at more than 13 percent in May of this year, teen pregnancy affecting kids in the fifth grade, the high school dropout rate of more than 30 percent, the possibility of a Job Corps program for our youth is not only wanted but desperately needed.

Through my earlier testimony I hope I have shown you the number answering—the youth, to meet the stated criteria of those who currently participate in the Job Corps training programs. The thought of about 600 disadvantaged youth going back to work each year will not solve our gang and crime problems, but will certainly provide hope in a county that is wondering what has happened to our residents' quality of life.

As Fresno's employment base continues to grow, manufacturing, retail and service job opportunities open each day. With our growing population business seems to flourish in the Valley. But first in the minds of Fresno business leaders is education and employment for our school-aged children. Fresno County business people are noted throughout California for their love of this valley certainly, but also for the generosity that they have in terms of giving their volunteer time and money to this community.

The Fresno Chamber of Commerce has a membership of 2,200, one of the five largest chambers in the State of California. We have this kind of membership support because we are involved in issues and in the community. When we went on record to support the Private Industry Council's application for the Job Corps program, all of the Chamber's resources, available resources, went with it.

We have the relationships with the business community to help build a great Board, and the channels of communication necessary to bring about greater community support for this program. We will use those.

As our distinguished guests of Fresno, your decision will allow the Private Industry Council to proceed to make a major positive impact in the future of Fresno and our youth. I appeal to you on

behalf of the business community and the residents of Fresno, to choose us. We need your help.

Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Dean. Now, I would like to turn to Dallas Robertson, from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Mr. Perkins, Congressman Lehman and Congressman Martinez, good morning. It's a pleasure to testify before the Employment Opportunity Subcommittee. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters wishes to commend the subcommittee for holding these hearings on the expansion of the Job Corps program.

Our Union is pleased to be able to encourage expansion of the Job Corps and support local efforts to establish a Job Corps center in the Fresno Area. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters first became involved with Job Corps in May of 1968, with the development of press program in six centers. Twenty-four years later, involving in Job Corps remains one of our greatest commitments to our youth.

Over the years we have been able to place thousands of disadvantaged young men and women in affiliate joint apprenticeship training programs where they are able to lead productive and fulfilling lives as taxpaying citizens. What is more, as trade unionists.

We are presently involved in 52 Job Corps centers throughout the United States. We have one of the best placement rates, approximately 70 percent of all national Job Corps programs. Our Union provides enrollees entering the program with a comprehensive summary of the carpentry trade including hands-on experience, designed to familiarize potential apprentice trainees with the requirements of the trade.

Our instructors provide enrollees with a combination of classroom and hands-on training, to prepare students for entry into the apprenticeship program. The mission of traditional apprenticeship and training programs is to equip apprentices with marketable skills for today's and tomorrow's workplaces.

Most are funded by negotiated cents-per-hour contributions from employers who employ apprentices. Such apprenticeship programs' existence depends on its ability to prepare workers for the jobs that contributing employers provide. This is an essential connection to the real world jobs which schools and vocational institutions not directly linked to employers lack.

It explains why existing apprenticeship programs repeatedly demonstrate effectiveness in training workers in study of construction industry activity. Judging from our years of experience, we know that the Job Corps program seeks solutions to problems confronting disadvantaged youth by providing quality, preapprenticeship training. We would like to see that happen here in Fresno County, the heart of California.

We know the value of Job Corps centers, and we join the Mayor of Fresno, the local Private Industry Council and other concerned agencies and organizations in their efforts to fund a Job Corps center in Fresno County.

Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Robertson. Now, I guess we would like to turn to Bill Sparks, who is from the Home Builders Institute. Please proceed, Mr. Sparks.

Mr. SPARKS. Thank you, Chairman Perkins, Congressman Lehman and Congressman Martinez. I am pleased to be here today, to express the strong support of the Building Industry Association of Fresno area for bringing a Job Corps center to our community.

We have been working closely with the Home Builders Institute which is the educational arm of the National Association of Home Builders. Home Builders Institute is an educational, non-profit organization, dedicated to training the future labor force in America's building industry for nearly 20 years.

The Institute is the largest vocational trainer for Job Corps, and has helped train many youths in a variety of vocational trades and for the building industry. Home Builders Institute offers training in nine construction trades, and has a national placement Job Corps staff which helps several thousand Job Corps youths obtain their first jobs.

In addition, Home Builders Institute had Washington, DC staff who service coordinators for the National Job Corps coalition of business, labor, volunteer and children advocacy groups before Congress and across the Nation. This coalition believes the Job Corps is a great place to start reinvesting in America.

Builders across the Nation are troubled by a skilled worker shortage. Job Corps produces students with valuable skilled worker experience on actual Job Corps construction training sites. Job Corps students are able to safely operate equipment, install modern materials, and understand modern building systems. The training they receive is current and tailored to meet today's specific industry needs.

The Building Industry supports Job Corps and its proven track record of producing quality workers who safely build affordable homes for our Nation. In addition to providing jobs in local economy in Fresno, a new Job Corps center would help meet the labor needs of builders in this area. As you are aware, Fresno's youth are in serious trouble. A Job Corps center is desperately needed here, to serve thousands of disadvantaged youth who need a second chance.

They will get to leave their troubled neighborhoods and live in the safe residential environment. They will get the education, job training and self-esteem Job Corps offers and become self-sufficient citizens. I urge the Department of Labor to choose Fresno as a site for the last of six new Job Corps centers Congress funded in fiscal year 1989, and help poor youths in Fresno climb out of their rut of poverty, crime and gang violence.

These youths sorely need the residential supervision, vocational training, basic education, medical care, counseling and recreational activities Job Corps offers. Fresno sorely needs a tried and true program like Job Corps. For 28 years Job Corps has prepared young people not only to make a living but to live decent lives as human beings with self-respect.

A new Job Corps center would unite business, labor organizations and volunteers in Fresno, with the goal of educating and training our youth. Job Corps launches poor youths into the labor

force and builds up the economy. They don't end up in jail, on welfare, and on the streets.

A Job Corps center in Fresno would help us break our community's chain of unemployment, crime, and poverty. Our poor youths and their families have waited long enough. The time to act is now. Thank you very much for allowing me to testify.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much, Mr. Sparks. Congressman Lehman, are there any questions that you have of the panel?

Mr. LEHMAN. Yes, and just very briefly. I thank each of you for your testimony. I guess maybe I will ask Stebbins. Job Corps Centers are operating by private industry. Do you, for the record, see that kind of commitment here in our community? Do you think we could get private industry involved?

Mr. DEAN. The answer is just an unqualified yes. The nice thing that I think Fresno has enjoyed throughout its history is the fact that the private sector cares about the community and invests in it. I made a statement in my testimony—as a matter of fact the Private Industry Council called us in recently to help bring some new private sector people onto the Board. I guarantee you, we had no difficulty finding those people and getting them over there.

So, you won't find any difficulty with manufacturing, retail, or whatever.

Mr. LEHMAN. As we move forward with this plan, a key component of that has to be the people who are going to do the training. We can put that kind of organization together here. The commitment is there, you are saying?

Mr. DEAN. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. That goes for the building industry as well?

Mr. SPARKS. That's an unqualified yes. We are very supportive of current programs in vocational education at Fresno City College and Fresno State University. The Home Builders have been very supportive of those programs and have turned out some very qualified workers.

Mr. LEHMAN. Those people end up working in the industry?

Mr. SPARKS. They end up working in the industry.

Mr. LEHMAN. Dallas, the same thing goes for labor?

Mr. ROBERTSON. That is correct. Our involvement, we have about a 70 percent success rate in placing individuals who come through the Job Corps with the preapprentice program and provide a better qualified applicant for our apprenticeship program. I think he has a better chance of succeeding.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you very much.

Mr. SPARKS. Thank you, Mr. Lehman. Congressman Martinez, are there any questions that you have of the panel?

Mr. MARTINEZ. Just a couple. Dalias, what was the percentage that you mentioned, success rate?

Mr. ROBERTSON. Approximately 70 percent success rate.

Mr. MARTINEZ. That's very high. You are familiar with Brotherhood of Railway Workers in Los Angeles, in the LA Job Corps Center?

Mr. ROBERTSON. No, I am not.

Mr. MARTINEZ. You have to shoot for their record. They have an 86 percent placement record. The real question that I have is, Bill, you mentioned in your testimony in 1989 the funding of those six

sites. Those six sites, we would have liked to in Congress have had the ability to designate where they would go.

Of course, Elizabeth Dole got hers in Kansas. She made sure that was one of the first sites that was designated, and it is already constructed. In fact, there are two under construction—two more that are under construction. We can't really do anything about that. There are two that are in their planning stages. One of them is Laguna Mountain, California, which seems to have some problems. Are you familiar with that?

Mr. SPARKS. No, I am not, Congressman.

Mr. MARTINEZ. That may be something that we may need your help, in trying to persuade the Department of Labor to redesignating. They are in the process of looking at redesignating. You might have—are you out of Washington?

Mr. SPARKS. No, I am out of Fresno. I am local. You would have the support of the Home Builders Institute and the National Association of Home Builders. Whatever we can do to help you redesignate——

Mr. MARTINEZ. You might talk to the organization back there, and try to get some information on that. Then, try to encourage them to try and move in that direction of helping us. I am sure that Congressman Lehman will want to try to do something about that, in maybe getting Fresno designated.

Mr. SPARKS. I appreciate that, and we will do everything that we can to help you.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you. I don't have any questions for this panel, but I appreciate them very much taking the time to come and present their testimony to us today. I thank them very much for that. With that, we will dismiss them, and move on to our next panel.

The next panel is Joe Williams, Ernest Velasquez, M. J. Peterson and Dr. Larry Wilder or Ida Tiscareno, one of the two. Joe Williams is not here. Since Mr. Williams is not present right now, we will just include his testimony which has been presented to the subcommittee in its entirety into the record.

We will begin with Mr. Ernest Velasquez, Director of Fresno Department of Social Services. Mr. Velasquez, begin when you so desire.

STATEMENTS OF ERNEST VELASQUEZ, DIRECTOR, FRESNO DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES; M. J. PETERSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, FRESNO PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL; AND IDA TISCARENO, FRESNO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Mr. VELASQUEZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Congressman Martinez and Congressman Lehman. My name is Ernest Velasquez, and I am the Director of Fresno County Department of Social Services. I want to thank you for allowing me to testify before you this morning.

The issue here is the establishment of a Job Corps center within Fresno County. August 11 of this year, the Children's Defense Fund released a recent study on child poverty. One of its major findings clearly indicated that child poverty was moving out of the major cities into the smaller, rural communities.

The study, which incidentally was no surprise to us here in Fresno, states that more than one-fourth of the children living in cities with populations of 100,000 or more in 1989, were living below the poverty level. According to the study the city having the highest proportion of poor children in the State of California was Fresno, with 36.9 percent of its children living in poverty. The highest in the Nation was Detroit, with a percentage of 46.6, and the City of Fresno was placed 17th with the top 20 in the Nation.

According to the 1992 annual report published by Children Now, the California dream is quickly fading. Over the past two decades bad economic conditions, changing family structure, change in demographics, and a diminished commitment to our children, have contributed to worsening conditions in children's lives.

The 1990 census shows child poverty rates in California have increased from 12.7 percent in 1969 to 18.2 percent in 1989, an increase of more than one-half million children. From 1970 to 1990, after adjusting for inflation, a median house price rose 17 times faster than the median family income. Median house prices rose from 123 percent while the median family income rose only 7 percent over the same 20-year period.

Here, in Fresno County, the statistics on poor children are sobering. The latest figures show that 26 percent of Fresno's children live in a single parent households. The poverty rate for children in Fresno County increased from a 20.8 percent in 1979, to 32.4 percent in 1989, representing a 55.9 percent increase.

Of the 58 counties in the State of California, Fresno ranks 56th in the number of its children falling under the poverty level. However, the other neighboring counties who would also benefit tremendously by the establishment of a Job Corps center in Fresno County which is the capital of the San Joaquin Valley, have poverty rates comparable to Fresno County ranked last in the State, with a ranked 58th and 33.2 percent poverty rate for their children.

Other neighboring counties share the same plight. King is ranked 51st, with a poverty rate of 27 percent. Madeira, our neighbor to the north, ranked 49th, with a poverty rate of 25.4 percent. Mercet ranked 53rd, with a poverty rate of 30 percent. In the southern part of the Valley ranked 47th, with 24.8 percent. San Joaquin County ranked 44th, with 23.7. Stanislaus ranked 38th, with 23.7 percent.

The percent increase in the number of children in poverty from 1979 to 1989 was approximately 40 percent collectively with the San Joaquin Valley County. In addition, Fresno County also ranks in the top five in the State of California for unwanted teenage pregnancies, which now number approximately 2,000 live births per year. Currently one-half, over 750 teenage head of households are on AFDC, and the number continues to grow at an alarming rate.

Due in large part to the staggering statistics regarding poverty and unemployment within Fresno County, Fresno County Department of Social Services was the first county in the State of California back in 1986, to implement a Graded Avenues for Independence program, the GAIN program. California GAIN program which now operates under the Federal Jobs Program, has been extremely

successful in addressing the training, education and employment needs of Fresno's neediest citizens.

In the past 6 years since its implementation, the GAIN program has been successful in providing 10,500 new jobs for welfare recipients, has resulted in 750 successful GED's, has resulted in approximately 4,000 vocational training and education completions, and 600 2-year degrees and approximately 120 4-year degrees completions.

To be noted though, that as successful as the GAIN program has been in providing these critical services, it continues to exist a gap in providing vocational training to the youth within Fresno County, which now has a youth unemployment rate exceeding 30 percent.

There is no question that the necessity for establishing a Job Corps center in Fresno County is compelling. In addition, Fresno County benefits by having an interagency committee which was established in 1977, as a collaborative organization to maximize all resources in all areas related to youth services.

This committee will ensure the success of a Job Corps center. The membership of the interagency committee which is headed by the presiding judge for the juvenile court, includes the Director of Social Services, the Director of Health, the Chief Probation Officer, Superintendent of County Schools, Superintendent of Fresno Unified School District, District Attorney, the Sheriff, the Fresno City Chief of Police, County Council, the Director of Economic Opportunities Commission and the Administrator of the Valley Medical Center.

This committee meets monthly to discuss areas of mutual interest and concerns around youth services in Fresno County, and has been instrumental in establishing working relationships with protocol, as well as identifying critical needs in youth services for the community as a whole. This committee has been very effective in marshaling resources and the reduction of duplication of services, and in rallying the community in supporting programs to assist the youth of Fresno County, be it Social Services, Education or the Justice System.

In summary, let me once again express that the Department of Social Services' total dedication toward the establishment of a Job Corps center in Fresno County. I am committing all the resources available to this agency as already stated by Mr. Vagim, which are necessary for the successful establishment of a center.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I would be happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much, Mr. Velasquez. We will now go to Ida Tiscareno who is with the Fresno County Unified School District.

Ms. TISCARENO. Fresno County Office of Education.

Chairman PERKINS. Okay. Please proceed.

Ms. TISCARENO. Good morning Congressmen Perkins, Martinez and Lehman. I am Ida Tiscareno from the Fresno County Office of Education and Fresno Metro Regional Occupational Center Program. I am here on behalf of Dr. Peter Mehas, Superintendent of the Fresno County Office of Education.

Let me begin by thanking you for the opportunity to present testimony to your panel. Unfortunately, it is probably redundant to discuss the problems facing Fresno's youth, as these problems are well discussed and reflective of the serious obstacles facing our Nation's youth. We are acutely aware and concerned about the rising crime, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and educational indifference.

However, this written testimony addresses the specific concern of general employment opportunities for this area's youth, because it has to be noted that employment opportunities or lack of, are so directly related to each and every problem facing our youth. We have to be aware of the actual and perceived relationship between education and employment, which can facilitate continued education, employment and personal development.

We have to be concerned with increased industrial and technological demands, so that our workforce and economy can compete in the global market. We have to be concerned that our emerging workforce can meet the demands of a changing society, so that a productive and healthy work ethic is developed and maintained.

We have to fully recognize the role and significance that our work culture plays for both individuals and society, since healthy individual career development is paramount for the general well-being of a society. Consequently, any efficient and productive effort contributing to successful career development is noteworthy and certainly, the Job Corps is to be applauded for its comprehensive service to this end.

With enthusiasm, we support the development of a Job Corps center in Fresno. It is noted that the Job Corps is a federally-funded national vocational training program, serving low income-youth between the ages of 16 and 22, and provides a comprehensive focus to employment, education, social and other personal developmental concerns. In terms of both age or economic status, the Job Corps target population is noteworthy itself.

The age of 16 to 22 are difficult years for our youth in general. Yet, this period is highly important for further successful career development. For many there may exist few work role models, along with restricted education and employment opportunities.

With these considerations and the Fresno area in mind, we would like to call to your attention the following. The Central San Joaquin Valley with Fresno as its hub, is a rapidly expanding population center, with Fresno alone having a metropolitan population of about 500,000. It appears that within this valley there exists Job Corps centers only in Sacramento. From Modesto, 80 miles south of Sacramento to Bakersfield, a distance of about 100 miles with Fresno roughly at its center, there is an approximate population of 1.5 million.

It is also safe to predict that this reason with its predicated growth, natural resources and its sincere commitment to successful economic development, will make a significant contribution to the economic well-being of this State.

Secondly, Fresno and the surrounding area have a significant immigrant population with severe economic needs. While not directly related, a recent study indicated that nationally Fresno has the greatest percentage of children living below the poverty line, an

unfortunate but significant indicator of the current and future need.

However, from an educational standpoint, there are exciting developments that need to be briefly noted within this testimony. These include number one, current restructuring efforts within California schools, including a reorganized strengthened curriculum, competency-based and outcome-based education, and the development of program majors integrating academic and vocational curricula, leading to a greater sense of connection between education and employment goals.

Number two, continued development of the workforce California which was initiated by industry to facilitate regional, cooperative efforts among industry, education, labor, government and the community, so that individual and industry employment needs can be met. The importance of the partnership between education and industry cannot be exaggerated.

Number three, while still in an initial stage, many dynamic efforts are occurring with tech prep program development within California and specifically within Fresno. The tech prep format represents a planned sequence of courses beginning in the ninth grade and articulated to postsecondary education, leading to an associate degree and facilitating continued lifelong learning. With this effort students will be better prepared to meet employers and industry standards, with increased proficiency and application in math, science, communication, and technology.

It is important to note that these options are not in competition with a Job Corps center development but rather, complement the linkage that must develop between industry, education, government, and the general community so that success is realized in addressing the multitude of problems facing our youth.

We all realize that collaboration between all segments is the key to success. In closing, as initially stated, we are all acutely aware of the problems facing our youth and we must remain diligent in addressing and resolving these issues. Healthy and significant career development for our youth will greatly assist in solving these problems.

A Job Corps center would enhance our efforts. Thank you.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Ms. Tiscareno. Next, we would turn to M. J. Peterson, who I understand has been quite the spark for this gathering today and who is very interested in obtaining this particular Job Corps center. She is Deputy Director of the Fresno Private Industry Council. Ms. Peterson, please proceed.

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. Chairman, if I might take the liberty to interject for the public and the record. M. J. Peterson has been the moving force behind this effort, when she came to me several months ago with it. We wouldn't be having this hearing today without her.

She was instrumental in organizing this as well. Her good work is greatly appreciated, and we simply would not be here without her.

Chairman PERKINS. With this kind of recommendation, Ms. Peterson, we are very anxious to hear your comments today. Please proceed at your leisure.

Ms. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Martinez and Mr. Lehman, I had a speech all prepared but realized I just couldn't read the speech. It didn't come from me, me, naturally speaking about this undertaking. I am new to Fresno. I came from East Orange, New Jersey 1 year and 4 months ago. It didn't take any time for me to be here in Fresno and be a newcomer, to see that we had some problems that needed to be addressed.

I wanted to be more proactive, rather than to wait until we had an LA situation before we got things moving. I could see that we had a problem here. Our staff started a year ago, in 1991, to try and bring a Job Corps center here. They got a little quiet and started to bring in Carl Lewis, and I am the Carl Lewis. I started out in January and went to Washington and sat down with Congressman Lehman and our other Congressmen and told them what we were trying to do.

I came back here and started to rally the community and have meetings, right here in this conference room, and share my energy for how important this is, even though I am new to the Fresno community. I might not know every person out here, but I could see the need and had a sincere desire and care.

I represent the Board of Directors of the Private Industry Council and brought them with me in this. I say it's needed. I did what I had to do, move mountains, hold meetings, run myself crazy, lose weight, have stress, in order to try and do what I could to bring the meeting here. I don't think there is one Congressman that hasn't heard of me, because I write to all of them.

I haven't talked to Secretary Martin, but she will be getting a letter from me. I just continue moving. The Home Builders are working with me in Washington. But you have heard the statistics. We have the numbers. Yes, we have high unemployment among the youth. Yes, we have high school dropout tremendously. Yes, we have high teen pregnancies.

I decided that I care enough. There are a lot of folks that you have heard from. You heard this morning in this meeting that they care too. We want to try and see what we can do to get the Congress to invest in our future. When I was listening to everyone testify this morning and was thinking about how much it costs to incarcerate a person, and how a taxpayer only has to pay $3.50 a year to keep a Job Corps participant in a center.

Yet, we pay $155 a year—taxpayers—for the B2 bombers and $180,000 for the bailout of the S&L. I just feel that if we are going to invest in the future—invest in our future, these youngsters will be paying our social security. If we don't start today, you know, someone is not going to pay for my old age.

These youngsters will come behind and be the next Congressman Perkins, Congressman Lehman and next Congressman Martinez. If we don't do this and try to invest and try to save, then I don't know what we are going to do as a country. I am asking you right now to use your powers, all three of you, to try and bring a Job Corps center here to Fresno.

Before you leave here today you will get a chance to meet some of these young people, because you were so great in giving us this summer money that we put to work about—about 4,500 youngsters this year as part of the summer program—4,800 youngsters. Some

of them are here today just to meet you all. We were able to do that and have a lot of programs going on.

The county of Fresno through this proposal, we will also use for the Job Corps—we received $500,000 from the Department of Labor for the Youth Opportunity Grant. When I read the proposal it brought tears to my eyes. I didn't realize how poor we were, how we were in the community. When you read that proposal—I said to Linda, they should just give us the money based on this. We shouldn't have to go through all this other process.

But we got it. Out of the four that were submitted, Fresno County got the YOU grant. It was based on those numbers of poverty and the different demographics in the community. Again, in my closing, I want to thank you for coming. Again, thank you for being here with the Fresno Private Industry Council, and thank you for your support. Thank you, Congressman Lehman.

[The prepared statement of M. J. Peterson follows:]

STATEMENT OF M. J. PETERSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,

FRESNO PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

May I take this opportunity to thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to be with us today.

As your subcommittee continues to consider the fiscal year 1993 Department of Labor Appropriations Bill, I am testifying today to urge that the subcommittee recognize the County of Fresno as a worthy site for a new Job Corps Center.

As you know, the Job Corps program has worked consistently to provide hope and opportunities to thousands of youth who are vulnerable to the influence of delinquency, drug trafficking, and violence. By providing services such as job training, college preparation, and recreational activities, the Job Corps gives at-risk youth the skills to work, and instills in them the desire to succeed. It is because of Job Corps' proven success that the Board of Directors of the Fresno Private Industry Council (FPIC) is seeking to establish a Job Corps Center in Fresno.

Fresno is one of California's fastest growing new metropolitan centers. In fact, *Investors Daily* cited Fresno as the fastest growing city in the United States. As a result of population growth rates, Fresno County is already experiencing many of the challenges faced by established metropolitan centers in California. More than one out of three Fresno students drop out of school, which is twice the average drop-out rate for the State of California. The annual number of teenage pregnancies in the area is more than 3,000, which is well above the national average. Moreover, the Fresno community has witnessed a dramatic increase in drug trafficking and gang-related violence. In fact, the number of gangs in the Fresno area has tripled in the last 2 years alone.

Fresno is located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley in the center of California. The surrounding rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley are the largest producers of agricultural products in the country. Although the rural areas surrounding Fresno are rich in production, they are poor in employment and training opportunities for youth. The county also has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country, which includes a large percentage of Hispanics, Southeast Asians, African Americans, and many other ethnic groups. This diversity brings riches to a community, as well as additional stress.

Our community has already formed a Job Corps Advisory Committee, in which the Fresno Private Industry Council has taken a leading role. The Council has taken this role because of the very high youth unemployment in the area and the need for a wide range of services to help at-risk youth move into the job market. The Job Corps is considered an essential element of job training for our youth. At the same time, no Job Corps Center exists within hours of driving time. Our youth are seriously underserved by the Job Corps. We believe that the location of a center in Fresno County will provide a setting that urban and rural youth of the San Joaquin Valley would find more inviting.

In 1991, each taxpayer paid approximately $3.50 for Job Corps, while paying $155 for the B-2 bomber and $180 for the savings and loan bailout. In light of these figures and the lack of Job Corps facilities in rural California, I am respectfully requesting your support in the 50-50 Plan Expansion of Job Corps and your support for a center for Fresno County.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Ms. Peterson. That was very moving testimony. I think we all are very interested in listening to that panel. It's always one of the highlights of my trip, listening to the Job Corps participants themselves.

Congressman Lehman, do you have any comments or questions of this panel?

Mr. LEHMAN. Just briefly. I guess it's hard to define who has the toughest job in Fresno County, but Ernie Velasquez is certainly in the running. I always appreciate his input, like 2 weeks ago when he called me when there was a rumor that I might vote against a bill on the floor. I quickly called back and he set me straight as to the impact of it.

Let me just respond to a general statement. We see these numbers. The Police Chief had them this morning and Mr. Vagim had the numbers as well. We see the trend in those numbers which are ominous in this county. That trend is going to continue, isn't it, unless we find a meaningful way to intervene out there?

Mr. VELASQUEZ. It looks like the trend is moving in that direction. It is going to continue, unless we intervene in some way. I mentioned the GAIN program as a way to stop some of that. There is the necessity to do something much more dramatic such as a center, to stop that. It just is incredibly important to do something like that. The trend continues.

Just let me expand a little. My colleagues, the other welfare directors in the central valley from San Joaquin to Curran, we meet on a monthly basis to share and find out who has more problems than the other. We talk about all these things. They are very enthusiastic also about hearing about the center in Fresno, because they also feel that these other places are too far away from them.

The impact of a center in Fresno goes way beyond the borders of Fresno County. It goes into all those other areas—my statistics that I shared with you.

Mr. LEHMAN. Did you agree with the Lieutenant who testified that the impact in this community that go beyond just those young people who are placed in the program but others who are impacted by that?

Mr. VELASQUEZ. Yes. I think that's the—the impacting will be over the areas, there's no question about it. Somebody mentioned the connection between poverty and crime, and why do we have it. I keep telling people that if we did away with poverty altogether, we would probably do away with 70 percent of the crime. Poverty is involved in just about everything we do in the statistics that I provide, whether it's Child Protective Services in the area of child abuse and other areas.

The impact can be over and above that.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you very much.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Lehman. Mr. Martinez.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Taking off on the last statement you made, I reflect back when you made that statement. I kind of chuckled, be-

cause when I was—don't everybody get shocked—when I was a Republican and we had what I considered at the time a very left wing, liberal democrat appear before our Rotary Club who you are familiar with—Walter Karabian.

He made the statement, eliminate poverty and eliminate crime. I jumped up and said what are you talking about. That's an insult to all the poor people. You know, I was poor and my family was poor, and none of us were criminals. Are you saying that all poor people are criminals, so that if you eliminate poverty you eliminate crime. That was the unenlightened view of a Republican.

[Laughter.]

Mr. MARTINEZ. I then got smart and went back to being a Democrat, and certainly started looking at things in a different light. Especially through these hearings that were held, the hearings that have been a part of both Congressman Perkins and myself on Education and Labor in regards to everything we deal with, the need for education, the need of giving people a chance to make available to themselves the great American dream of being able to sustain themselves and provide for themselves, home ownership and everything else that goes with that American dream.

I began to realize that it wasn't necessarily the statement that he made, that all poor people are crooks. That wasn't what he was trying to say. I understand it better now. It is really prevalent in all the testimony here from people who are in law enforcement, who would be the first ones to say that the idea of all poor people are crooks is not true. They see it every day.

They see crime among the middle class, they see crime among the very upper class. The crime, surely—what's his name, the junk bond dealer—Millikin, he was not a poor person. He was a criminal. Some of the people that took advantage of the savings and loan situations that they were in to line their pockets with gold were not poor people.

I have come to understand and maybe appreciate even more, that what we are talking about here is that even though there are among the poorest people in our country, very honest people—and are struggling even with that so-called family tradition that Republicans are not talking about, to make the family value the focal point of our society in which we create that great, great, great society.

The missing factor here is that people in poor situations are more apt to act out of desperation, out of frustration, things that are recognized as crimes. But in a lot of cases in their mind they are just trying to get themselves out of a hole. That's the reality of it all. You cannot keep people in a depressed condition and in an oppressed condition really, if you look at it, and expect that they will ever fully obey the law to the full letter of the law.

Sometimes it's impossible for them, just to survive. Certainly, the young people who are in a crisis now because they can't find employment, because the school system that we have has not educated them to the extent that they need to be educated, have them educated to the extent that they can go out and provide for themselves. Certainly, those young people look at the alternative to any success that they might have if they don't have great skills on a

basketball court or on a football field, on the track or anyplace else like that, that have great athletic abilities.

Drugs. The sale of drugs is attractive, so they can have a little bit of that good life. But with it, comes that great risk of always looking over their shoulder of who is going to do them. What the gang rivals are going to do them, and all those other associated things with illegal activity. I have seen kids that have gone into some of these programs that we have and taken the training to get not a $25 an hour job or a great fantastic salaried job, but not too much more than above minimum wage level. But that job at least means they could sustain themselves without sticking their hand out to the welfare agency and provide for themselves.

They would rather do that—when it comes to the realization of that great risk that they are involved in, in the other lifestyle. Those are the young people that we have to provide the opportunities for. The Job Corps centers—like I said earlier, one of the greatest programs that has ever been. Chairman Perkins in his statement said, it returns $1.46 for every dollar invested.

Business people who are involved in this ought to realize, that's a 46 percent profit. Who doesn't want a 46 percent profit. I was in business for 20 years. If I could have made a constant 46 percent profit I would have been a millionaire. Business people don't make it but the U.S. government is making it. Yet, that's a program that was slated for total elimination.

A while back if Mr. Williams and Mr. Perkins and Congressman Lehman and a bunch of them hadn't gotten on a bandwagon and fought like hell we would have had a cut to the Job Corps centers from the 146 that exist today. We continue that fight. My staff person over here tells me it's a very difficult situation to try and establish a new Job Corps center. Baloney, all we have to do is fight like hell and we will get it.

There are enough factors here that indicate that there should be one here. When you have a champion like Congressman Lehman and you have other people, champions like Congressman Perkins whose father was one of the premier Congressmen in taking care of programs like this because he saw in his State. He came from great poverty. There is no one that can associate better with the factors that poverty creates in regards to how young people live their lives than Chairman Perkins and his predecessor in that seat, his father, Carl Perkins who in my estimation was one of the giants of Congress.

Sometime I ought to tell you the story about how he took on Tip O'Neill and knocked him down. Not physically. Tip O'Neill wouldn't allow a piece of legislation to come to the floor and Carl Perkins got up on the House floor and said I have been here too long and am too savvy to allow you to keep me from bringing this bill on the floor. He promised that he would have the bill on the floor. The next week he had the bill on the floor and it was passed out.

These people are all very familiar with the problems that we are facing here. Of course, it's too bad that 435 members—and especially the ones that sit on the other side of the aisle—can't understand that in a way if you eliminate poverty, you eliminate a big percent-

age of the crime. Then, you only have to contend with crime in the upper crust of our society, which is sometimes easier to deal with.

I laughed when you made that statement because it reflected back to the misunderstanding that I had when I was on that other side of the aisle. I know now, that if we are going to do anything about the situations that exist in our community—really, I have been to Fresno several times and never really noticed it as much as I have this time. It was years ago when I came here when it was still a much smaller community.

I see as your growth has taken place, so have your problems. You have some more horrendous problems than even some part of Los Angeles. I would simply, rather than ask any questions, close by saying that I agree with Congressman Lehman, there is a great need for a Job Corps center here. It will complement the programs that you are doing.

I really commend you for the interagency activity that you have with the monthly meetings that you have, of all those groups that are really prevalent, in determining what future your community takes. I commend you for that. I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Congressman Martinez. I don't have any questions. I would like to thank this panel again, for their testimony today. Without further ado, we will move on to the last panel, Oskar Mendoza, Laly Palmer, and Armando Garza.

As I indicated earlier, this is always my favorite panel on these hearings. I always like to hear from those that have been through the program, what they think of it, and has it really had any kind of effect on their lives. Without further ado, I would move on to Ms. Palmer, and listen to her words about how it has affected her.

STATEMENTS OF OSKAR MENDOZA; LALY PALMER; AND ARMANDO GARZA

Ms. PALMER. Good morning, it is an honor to be here, to share with you my testimony and my experience. It is a pleasure to see you again, Mr. Lehman.

My name is Laly Palmer, and I am originally from Acapulco, Mexico. I came here 5 years ago and I didn't know any English and had no skills. So then, at that time, it was very difficult for me to try to find a job. I was working as a housekeeper or as a babysitter, whatever it would come and I could be able to make money.

Then, I heard about Job Corps and all the things that it would offer for me. At first it was hard to believe that they would give me clothing allowance and school training, they would teach me English and medical services and recreational and sports, they would give me everything for free. It was hard to believe it.

After I talked to Oskar and he told me about it and he oriented me a little bit about Job Corps, I joined the San Diego Job Corps. In 6 months I graduated as a word processor, and I learned English. After all, I was a tutor of my classmates. You see, I learned the language and then was able to help them actually, to make it easier to learn the language.

My first job after I graduated from the Job Corps, Women Community Services in Fresno helped me to get my first job and the unemployment office. It was a very important local company here

in Fresno. I started making $6.25 then, and right now I am working as a quality control inspector in a very important poultry company, and am making about $1,300 a month which is great for me.

I am able to have my own apartment, my car, and Job Corps made some of my dreams—many of my dreams come true. Here I am volunteering to—I am talking for those youngsters that I know in the future they would appreciate to have another Job Corps center here just like I appreciate so much what they did for me. I just hope everything goes right for them and are able to achieve their dream.

Our main goal right now is to open a Job Corps center here, in Fresno. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Laly Palmer follows:]

STATEMENT OF LALY PALMER

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come before you and share with you my experience with Job Corps.

My name is Laly Palmer and I am originally from Acapulco, Mexico. I first came to the U.S.A. in 1987 and I had no skills and could not speak English. Lacking English and job skills, it was very difficult for me to find employment.

Before joining the Job Corps I worked as a housekeeper making less than the minimum, or sometimes as a babysitter. I was struggling financially.

After seeing the advertisement for Job Corps in the local paper and getting a hold of the screener, it was hard for me to believe that this program would offer so many good things to someone who hardly knew what direction to take in life. So I enrolled in Job Corps, and was sent to the San Diego Job Corps Center. At first it was a little scary because I had no idea of what I wanted to get out of my life but Job Corps oriented me on what skills were right for me and assisted me with learning to speak, read and write English.

After 6 months I graduated in word processing and went to college to take courses in flight operation. Job Corps provided me with one of the greatest opportunities in my life. Not only did I receive free clothing, room and board, food, medical and dental services, and recreation services, but training that would eventually change my lifestyle. All at no cost to me.

While enrolled in my college course, Job Corps provided transportation to and from college.

After completing my training and returning to Fresno, additional assistance was provided to me by staff at the local Women in Community Services office. They directed me to the placement agency for job referrals. In 1 week I was placed as a credit investigator for a leasing corporation.

Currently, I work for a very important local company as a quality control inspector and I am earning close to $1,300 a month. All these could have not been possible without Job Corps.

Because I was given so much I felt the need to give back something and since I cannot repay I am currently volunteering at the local screening office. I assist the staff with the screening and outreach of those that do not speak English.

Thank you Job Corps for giving me a chance to change.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you very much, Ms. Palmer. That was beautiful testimony. Mr. Garza.

Mr. GARZA. Hi. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to come before you and share with you my experience that I had in Job Corps. Mr. Perkins, Mr. Lehman and Mr. Martinez, it's an honor to be here and see you.

The experience in Job Corps was tremendous. When I went to Job Corps they gave me the support that I needed. I went to high school here, in Fresno and was also born here in Fresno. I had no direction in my life when I graduated from high school. I didn't have the practical skills needed to get into the workforce and I was lost, and didn't know where to go.

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Then, I found the Job Corps. They gave me the opportunity that I needed to go into the right direction. Job Corps, like I said, I can't explain the experience. It was something that is needed by low-income people I would say, because at that time we were low income. I came from—my parents were farm workers. They really didn't know the guidance to give us. Job Corps gave me that guidance.

While I was at Job Corps I gained a lot of experience. I went through the nursing assistant program in Job Corps. Then, after I completed my program in Job Corps, I came right to Fresno as a nursing assistant and started working in a nursing home. I wanted to further my education and I enrolled in the City College program. I am still trying to further my education.

Right now, I am currently employed through Valley Medical Center and work for them as a nursing assistant. Without Job Corps I don't think I would be able to be in that position right now, working for the county. I still want to further my education and get my license, and eventually be a registered nurse. I plan to do that. Without Job Corps, I don't think I would have had that road or that guidance. I was lost, like I said.

They helped me to put that together for me. That's all I have to say.

Chairman PERKINS. I think that is very, very good information. The subcommittee very much appreciates what you have to say, Mr. Garza. We turn now to Mr. Mendoza.

Mr. MENDOZA. Mr. Perkins, Congressman Lehman and Congressman Martinez, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come before you this morning to testify on behalf of the Job Corps center in Fresno County. I, myself, am not a graduate from the Job Corps center. However, my brother was one of the first males from Fresno County to graduate or to go into the Job Corps in Pleasanton, California and then transferred to Tongue Point in Oregon. He has completed the program.

In the last 6 years that I have been affiliated with the Job Corps, I toured most of the centers that we service in California which are five, and then one in Nevada, Utah and two in Arizona. I found the program to be very successful.

Hearing the stats this morning sends a lot of the community because of the high dropout rate, the high teenage pregnancy. However, we see the other side. We see the students as Armando and Laly that have graduated from the Job Corps. We see those that have been detailed in the juvenile probation department until the day that they actually leave into the Job Corps. Six months they send us a letter thanking us for giving them the opportunity, graduated from high school, GED and then passed the entrance test into the Air Force. It is something that probation officers thought this individual would never be able to do.

In the last 6 years I have been able to see individuals graduate from the Job Corps, those that society gave up on, and open up their own business. Our office in San Jose across the hallway, the young man that opened up his own graphic design company there graduated from the Job Corps centers. There are so many testimonies throughout the years that I have been working with the Job

Corps and representing the Job Corps in the five-county area and here in Fresno, and I see the need.

There are some concerns that community—the parents have about their children leaving their areas and going into training. In Sacramento, even though it's only a 2-hour difference, there are some obstacles for them. Seeing a Job Corps center built in Fresno, one that would support the community—I believe that the need is here and that the community itself would support that move.

I know that when we talk to the parents and we talk to schoolteachers, when we talk to probation officers, that is something that is brought up to us. They are asking, will there ever be a Job Corps center in Fresno. Like I have said, in the 6 years that I have been associated with the Job Corps that question always arises.

Hearing and seeing what the Private Industry Council is doing and some of the other organizations in Fresno, parents do get excited. They want something for their children.

The structure the Job Corps has, the benefits that the county, Santa Clara County, reeks from having a Job Corps in their community is enormous. I was there last week and there part of this week talking to different organizations, linking them up with the Job Corps program and other JTPA programs in the area, seeing the students involve themselves not only in their vocational training but also in the community.

The Weaver Basin Job Corps Center, the construction trade students building a community center for local senior citizens in their area. They are redoing some of the centers themselves, providing a much-needed service also. The support groups that are held at the Job Corps center from the staff that is dedicated to working with these young people that have sometimes given up on themselves—yet, when they arrive at Job Corps they have so much support not only from the staff but from other individuals and from other students.

As Ms. Palmer testified earlier, how she assisted those that—once she picked up the English language enough to assist those who were coming in, to assist them and get some foundation so that they would go into their vocational trade.

Job Corps has two sayings that you hear all the time when you visit the centers. You hear the students say one of them is the one that they have used for many years—Job Corps works and so does its graduates. The new one is that Job Corps is a chance for change. This is what some of these students are looking for. It is an opportunity, so that they can tap into their potential and can become productive citizens in their communities.

A lot of them return back to Fresno because these two individuals here and some others are interested in opening up our own chapter in the Fresno area with assistance from some of the other offices that are already chartered in their counties, from Oakland and the others.

We are involving the Job Corps students that have graduated into the program. Ms. Palmer volunteers in the local recruiting office, calling those that don't speak English to assist our staff that are made up of mostly volunteers, to bring in those that are interested in the program. Mr. Garza assists with public service an-

nouncements in the community, getting the message out about Job Corps.

Sometimes when individuals even in the San Jose area when they go in, they don't realize that there's a Job Corps center doing some fantastic things with their young people in the area. I think in Fresno, having a Job Corps center would benefit greatly not only Fresno County but those other counties that we service from this office in Fresno from Larry Madera and Curran County.

We do have a Job Corps center in San Jose and Sacramento, and we do send students to all the centers that I had mentioned earlier. They benefit from this program. One of the barriers that a lot of them—parents do not want to let their daughters leave home that far away to go into training, or some of those that don't want to leave because they have family here.

The family does provide a much-needed support for them while they are in the Job Corps program. I can see the need for having a Job Corps center here in Fresno, and I think there would be no problem in having the community back it up and support it. Also, the center would be constantly filled with students applying.

Right now, just working with the organization, we have a large number of males that are waiting to get into the Job Corps that have been approved and accepted, but there is no slots for them at the existing centers. We are currently working to recruit more females into the program, that can benefit. However, the large majority as we heard earlier, have children that they cannot take with them to the center.

That's why Santa Clara and San Diego County that have child care facilities on their centers, they benefit from those for the nonres program that can take advantage of the program while their children are being well taken care of.

When I first started working with Job Corps I was just surprised and amazed at the things that they accomplish with so little funding that goes into the program. They extend everything they can. There's a saying in the Job Corps center. If you are here because you want to we are going to love you and take care of you. But if you are here just to take up time we would prefer that you pack your clothes and go back, because there are hundreds of students that will take your place in the Job Corps center.

I, as an individual working in the community, support the need and the want for a Job Corps center in Fresno County. Thank you very much.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Mendoza. Congressman Lehman, do you have any questions?

Mr. LEHMAN. Yes. Oskar, what is your position?

Mr. MENDOZA. I am what they call an area coordinator for a nonprofit organization that recruits for Job Corps in the State of California.

Mr. LEHMAN. When you recruit, can you tell me a little bit about that? I mean, do you work with law enforcement?

Mr. MENDOZA. Yes, we do. What we try to do Congressman Lehman, we try to connect and build a network with all the existing agencies that are working with the certain population. It is 16 to 24 that we work with.

We have two pilot programs in Reno, Nevada and San Diego, where we send students that are 22 and over. We link with the JTPA programs, with all the Private Industry Councils and all the counties that we service. Being an area coordinator, I cover the area from Bakersfield to the Oregon border.

What we are doing is pulling in from the community volunteer workers to screen the workers, to provide supportive services while they are waiting to get in. We contact the local schools, the dropout—the counselors that work with the actual dropout. We go into the schools and make presentations. We go into community organizations. We write to the churches because the organizations are a coalition of five womens' groups, working together to get the message out about Job Corps.

So, we try to tap into every source that we can and we do public service announcements on local radio and TV shows. Laly is scheduled to appear on one of the talk shows—Spanish TV station—to talk about her experience in Job Corps. We try to work in the communities with other organizations to let them know that Job Corps is a viable alternative for some of the students or some of the young people that are at risk that they cannot serve, whether they need the residential program or they need the support that Job Corps or the remedial education that Job Corps provides for them.

Over 120 of the vocations that they choose at several of the centers, surely they have covered a wide range of vocations where students can feel comfortable. Job Corps does a unique program where they test the students to determine what is their ability and what are they able to accomplish, before just pushing them through a vocational training program.

The goal is to train them so that they will become employable at the end of their training, and the placement agency which we do also on a volunteer basis—we tap into some of the resources in the community to find employment. This is how we were able to place Ms. Palmer in her job. Mr. Garza was placed in his job because the center took the initiative to contact some of the employers in the area and say we have this certain group of individuals graduating with certificates. Do you need employment.

Students will return—we will verify that they are employed and then they release the readjustment money that you are aware of that they set aside for students after they graduate from the programs.

Mr. LEHMAN. What is the waiting list time?

Mr. MENDOZA. It depends. On females, depending if they are going into a residential program like in Sacramento or San Jose, what we have local and direct impact there's a waiting period within a 2-month period. The girls and the males will get in.

Unfortunately, for Fresno—because we do not have that ability to do local and direct input because we are too far from the centers—right now we are looking at males waiting up to 6 to 8 months to get into the program. Females can get in, within a 3-month period. We need the females at the centers.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you. Let me just ask Laly and Armando, were you in the 24-hour program? You were in a residential program?

Ms. PALMER. Yes.

Mr. GARZA. Yes.

Mr. LEHMAN. Laly, I would like you to go through a day. What is a typical day like. What is your routine?

Ms. PALMER. Wake up and go to——

Mr. LEHMAN. What time is that?

Ms. PALMER. Five or six o'clock.

Mr. LEHMAN. Okay, that's enough.

[Laughter.]

Ms. PALMER. Have breakfast and go to school at four o'clock. At three o'clock we finish school and go back to the dorm, get ready to go and have our dinner, and then if you have to study you can study in the evenings. We have the recreation center which has TV and swimming pool. That's what you do on weekdays. On weekends, they let you go out Friday after five, and come back Sunday before nine at night. You have to be in the center.

Mr. LEHMAN. Armando, do you want to add anything?

Mr. GARZA. Yes. I guess it's a little different for the females. For the males, we get up at six o'clock in the morning and there's chores that we have to do while we are in our dorms. We have to do our cleanup and make sure that our rooms are spotless, because we have inspectors that come in and look at all these rooms. They have to be cleaned before you go to school.

You wake up at six, you do your chores, and then at seven o'clock you go to breakfast. You have breakfast and then go to your classes. No student is allowed back into the dorms after seven o'clock, after you go to breakfast. Everything has to be completed.

You go to breakfast and then to school, and then you stay in school. You are in school until lunchtime and have your break for lunch. You go back to school. In the morning you have school and in the afternoon you go to your trade. You go into your program, whatever your vocation is. After your vocation you are completed at four o'clock. Like she said, that's your time after that.

You can stay on the center and if you have permission you can leave the center. If you are over 18 you can leave the center. If you are under 18 you have to have a parent consent to leave.

On the center they have recreation. At the San Diego center that I went to they had a bowling alley. They would also take us on different trips within San Diego, movie theaters and dances that they had at the center. There's a lot of things for us to do while I was there. They had a residential advisor that stays in the dorm and had assistants. I became an RA assistant.

Instead of letting other people tell me to get up and do the chores I was getting them up and telling them to do their chores. They have a cadet program there in the center, and I became a cadet while I was in the center. That helped out a lot while I was there, in San Diego.

Mr. LEHMAN. Thank you very much. Do you want to say something else?

Ms. PALMER. Yes. You also had a choice to work part time, which I did. I worked for the coordinator in the evenings and any time I could if I didn't have homework. I would make extra money. Job Corps, every 2 weeks, they would give us our paycheck and with an extra job you would be able to make a little bit more money.

Mr. LEHMAN. That's great. Congratulations to both of you. I am very proud of you, and appreciate what you are doing today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Lehman. Mr. Martinez.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Just one. Laly you went to San Diego. Where did you go?

Ms. PALMER. Yes, San Diego.

Mr. LEHMAN. That's just south of San Jose.

Mr. MARTINEZ. The only reason I asked is you can see as I said earlier how—when they develop these centers—to me there's no rhyme or reason. Obviously, the Job Corps centers in places that were quite a distance from where the client came from. For example, we had trouble with the Job Corps centers in New York because they were sending the young people all the way from the Virgin Islands but there were Job Corps centers that were closer to the Virgin Islands than New York.

It's something that you need to think about—the Mayor made the point of the reason why you could justify a Job Corps center here is because of the population, even more than the travel. Just the reason I ask is that you both went to San Diego, which is a long way from here, and really denies you of any local support person or group that you might have close by.

Ms. PALMER. Let me add something. We went to that one because we had only two options because we were over 21, Reno or San Diego.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Hey, I would have taken Reno. Part of the reason that they have to send to the different Job Corps centers because the courses provided for the aptitude that you have. Is that what you were going to say?

Mr. MENDOZA. Yes. To add to that is also, as an organization—it was brought up earlier how the private sector and community-based organizations are working—they provide support groups on the campus for students that are coming in, to deal with their homesickness. They get big brothers, big sister programs on the center.

They have junior volunteer or student volunteers that greet the students when they are coming in. They try to address all those factors. The thing is, they assign the students according to the vocation that they have chosen.

Now, those that are 16 and 17 the parents can indicate yes, we would like to keep our students close to home. So, we try to do everything that they can so that they can successfully complete the program. They do provide support on the campus for them to do different—to feel at home. They have the big brother and big sister program which is working on the campus as Ms. Palmer mentioned, tutoring and assisting those students, alleviating those fears.

Anytime you make a move—a transition—from one place, regardless if you are 16 or even when you are 20 or early 30's, it's going to be a change of an environment. They are going to be impacted. However, having a Job Corps center in Fresno is going to service a larger number of students. Some students may come from other areas into Fresno because of the selection of vocations that they have chosen for the specific center.

Los Angeles does most of the medical training. The LVN program is only in Los Angeles. The college courses that Chairman Perkins mentioned earlier is only in several select centers. Students chose those vocations. We try to counsel with them and let them know that there will be someone waiting for you at the bus depot, at the airport waiting to pick you up. If they speak only Spanish we try to get staff to take someone that only speaks Spanish. We are aware of the fact that it is a change to go from one city to another.

In Region 9 we try to keep our students locally in these centers here. We do send to Clearfield, Utah because that is a large center. It's a 1,700 population. Sometimes it is difficult to get the centers filled. Students that want the auto mechanic courses, the UAW program that they have there, this is where we counsel with them and counsel with the parents and let them know.

We encourage the parents to write to them and visit them, and call them. The centers are very responsible sending the parents a safe arrival letter. They send them evaluations of how their students are doing in the courses. Wolf Creek, Oregon sends out to the parents and to the recruiting agencies of how the students are doing in the centers, and how they are moving up—they have a color coding from grade of blue to gold, saying they are outstanding students.

When they are employed they let us know through the TCU program which was the BRAC program which is now TCU in San Jose and Los Angeles. They send us letters. If I recruited someone they will send us a letter, saying that so and so was placed in this agency earning this much per hour. What we do in return is send it to the referring agency. If they came from one of the local schools we will let them know, this is what happened to the young person that you referred to us.

There is a lot of support at the centers, to try to alleviate some of the fears that students have when they arrive. That's why we—in local offices where we have a center close by—Sacramento, San Jose and Sacramento—we encourage students to tour the center prior to enrollment and to orientation. We also encourage the parents to visit the center and sit down and talk to the counselors and the staff.

Mr. MARTINEZ. You raise an interesting point in what you were just discussing, population center in Utah. That's one of the reasons why we visited the Job Corps centers where we find people from other States, sometimes quite a distance.

But it brings up the interesting point about the number of slots available at the different centers. Sacramento is quite a sizable Job Corps and has a great deal of slots there. They offer a peculiar kinds of interests too. They have the heavy equipment, which no one else has in California.

Mr. MENDOZA. Exactly.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Heavy equipment removal. In that regard, it brings up a question that I had earlier and forgot to ask. From your experience in being a regional manager, how many slots do you think and what would be the size of the center in Fresno; how many people would be able to be serviced there?

Mr. MENDOZA. I don't think I could give you exact numbers, because I really haven't—it would be a large population. In the year July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1992, 61,451 youth at risk were served with another center. I support the 50/50 plan. I have met with the Home Builders Institute. I have talked to them to see what their ideas are

I think a center in Fresno, it would serve a large population. As I said earlier, it would be filled constantly. There would probably within 2 to 3 years there would be more slots. The program is needed because it serves a population that is at risk and is sometimes very difficult as we heard from some of the other panelists.

They need to first achieve their—find themselves—be able to say yes, I do need this kind of service and then go through the program. I really can't answer your question as a numbers, as to how large a center there should be built in Fresno.

Mr. MARTINEZ. It would certainly service more than 50 or 100.

Mr. MENDOZA. Definitely. Probably 650 slots would be nice to have to start off with.

Mr. MARTINEZ. In that regard then why I asked the question, it leads up to the next question which would be an argument that we would have to overcome in argument form. You are vying within a framework of an appropriation, the dollars that everybody else is providing for. When you take away—the whole thing that some people don't think of is, when you give slots to an area and you don't have to service those young people from that area. In this other area, all these people are losing is the slot for that—the cost of that slot for the person from that area.

They are not losing anything. They are just having to transfer that in terms of vying for dollars. Do you want to comment on the shifting of dollars within the whole program as appropriation is determined.

Mr. MENDOZA. Like I said, I came prepared to discuss the fact that we should have a Job Corps center in Fresno. I leave that to other committees that have expertise in determining that.

Mr. MARTINEZ. You got handed a note.

Mr. MENDOZA. Yes. Two hundred males——

Ms. PETERSON. The facility that we are trying to build here—and I got the statistics from the regional administrator—the size would have to be to service 220 females and 220 males. It would make it about 640 youth per year.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Martinez. I thank the panel. I think it has been a very informative panel. As I said, I always enjoy this panel probably as much as any. With that, I appreciate your coming. Thank you.

I understand that we have Mr. Joe Williams who has joined us in the course of our proceedings today. Mr. Williams, we have already incorporated the text of your written statement into the record today.

If you would, just come forward and sit down and give us some brief remarks about what you have to say about the possibility of a Job Corps center here, in the Fresno area. Please proceed at your leisure.

STATEMENT OF JOE WILLIAMS

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is also an honor for me to be here. I run an agency called the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission. It has lately been referred to as the great society programs, the community action agency. Congressman Martinez, it's good to see you again.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Same here.

Mr. WILLIAMS. I will just kind of paraphrase some of my concerns and comments regarding this. I heard a saying the other day, that Fresno is now being referred to as the Mississippi of California because of all the things that seem to be happening in Fresno and around and what's happening in California.

California has gone through probably about 8 years of building all the jails that we can build, all the prisons that we can build, and putting all the rascals away that we can put away. We have the dubious pleasure, if you will, of having more prisons and more jails than South Africa, Russia and any other free country in this world.

We have really gone to extremes to eradicate ourselves, if you will, of children and grownups who have not been able to find employment and who have diverted themselves to other things in order to live. In thinking about the Job Corps center, it crossed my mind that many of our kids go to juvenile hall to get a three meal a day, be able to watch television at night and have a place to sleep. So, sometime, they commit crimes in order to live. The purpose for me of a Job Corps center is allowing our kids a tremendous alternative, an opportunity to seek out other types of services that can meet their needs.

The other thing that bothers me most about what's going on in California and the need as I see it for the Job Corps center is, 80 percent of the prison inmates in California are minorities, 80 percent. So, whoever was building all the prisons had a particular group in mind that they wanted to make sure was in jail. I say that from the standpoint that there are about 39 percent African-Americans in prison in California, an African-American population I would venture to guess which is no more than 6 percent of California.

Approximately almost 40 percent of the Hispanic population is in prison in California. I would say the Hispanic population probably runs between 26 to 28 percent. That, to me, is clear what the future looks like for a lot of our young people.

What that has done to our system is, by the mere fact that we have built recently a women's institution right up the road here, there was a great deal of praise that went on that we now have a women's prison that would house 1,000 women. While I was listening to the warden speak the other day she mentioned that she now has 2,000 and they started a new facility to put in another 2,000 women.

Many of these women have children, who will end up in Mr. Velasquez's system or in foster care. Foster care has now become almost an industry in California. I tell you that to say to you that Fresno is perhaps one of the greatest little towns to do collaborative types of activities in any city I know. We have to share re-

sources, we have to share knowledge, we have to work together because we don't have the funding base to do some of the things that other cities can do.

When the idea came up about a Job Corps center it was easy to get this community behind such an idea. The idea came up about 6 years ago but the timing was off. We believe now, that it's time for us to face it. We will spend far more money putting our kids away in institutions than we will in trying to train them for a job. The three of you know that much better than I do.

The question sometimes come down, where do we get the money over here to put over there. I have to submit to you that if we don't start taking money out of the correctional institutions and out of those various types of activities and start doing preventive stuff over here and making our children productive citizens, the LA riots will look the like the earthquake in San Francisco that we say was only a six but wait until the nine hit. That's where we are.

We are talking about something that is massive, extremely explosive, and if LA can tie up this country—if LA can tie up this country and you throw in a Newark, you throw in a Detroit and a New York and throw in something like Houston, and we will have to appeal to Russia for aid. There is no way we will be able to sustain this.

I don't see the Job Corps as a panacea for what's happening, but it's one more part of the change that we hear all of you talking about, that has to happen in this country. This change has to come. It can't be business as usual. If it is business as usual, we are cutting our own wrists.

There is a great deal of anger among young people in this country, because they believe and feel that we have forgotten them. If you look at any of the crime statistics you see the anger in what they do. I guess I am saying that in Fresno we see the Job Corps as a part of pulling some things back together. I know other people have probably told you some of the other things that we are doing from K to 6 with kids. More recently Congressman Lehman visited a program that we are operating, to take 14- to 17-year olds and bringing them into a more control one stop environment, where they have a place to stay and a meal to eat and participate in job training and job development programs.

Things are being done, but we see this as one more piece to move us to this area where we need to be. I have in my text we can go through all the statistics. You know them as well as I do. I just have to believe that we are at a point now where we can't talk about it any longer. All of us know that politics as usual is gone. The budget is in serious shape and not just here in California but in Washington as well.

I guess all we are asking each of you to do and we know you do, is to put people first. Not people over in that land and people over in that land, people on this land. I believe that if you start doing that we don't need war machines. I watched the testimony last night and some of the stuff that went on television, and you spend 30 minutes talking about how we can conquer the world. That may be a great kind of platform thing for us to talk about, but to me it doesn't exhibit any pride because we have lost our world here by trying to conquer the other world.

I submit to you that the Job Corps center is one part of that change formula that people are saying throughout this Nation and are calling for. Certainly, we will do all we can to encourage you to move this forward. We will be available to assist you in any way possible.

I thank you for allowing me the time. It's a pleasure to see all of you again.

[The prepared statement of Joe Williams follows:]

STATEMENT OF JOE WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FRESNO COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Local organizations, government leaders, and businesses face massive challenges to respond to our youth issues. Nowhere else has it become more apparent than in Fresno County and surrounding areas, that education and job training for our young must be considered a national security issue—where we must focus public awareness and resources.

Thus, the Job Corps 50–50 Plan receives overwhelming support from a cross-section of citizens in this community. Fresno can only gain from such a plan, standing as one of the Nation's 20 fastest growing cities. Yet, we already are fast falling behind demand for support services.

In a ranking of large cities, Fresno rated highest in poverty among children under age 18 in California. Fresno was the only California city to make the national top 20 list of cities with the worst child poverty rates, ranking 17, according to a recent report released by the Children's Defense Fund.

With 66,416 children—almost 33 percent of Fresno County's 204,757 children—living in poverty, Fresno must now pull all plugs to countermand the problems.

EDUCATION

Youth advocates repeatedly point to glaring statistics that prove that poor children are three times more likely to die in infancy; four times more likely to become pregnant as teenagers; more likely to suffer serious illness, abuse, and neglect; and more likely to drop out of school.

Already one out of every three high school students in Fresno do not graduate with their class. Fresno County shows a high school dropout rate for grades 10, 11, and 12 at 22.5 percent. The State dropout rate is 18.2 percent.

A Fresno school board member commented, "There is a limit to what schools can do for general social ills. Our priority must be to provide quality education and create a good learning environment."

Fresno Unified School District expelled about 300 students in 1990–91, most for continuing behavioral problems. Expulsions last one to two terms, but often youth never return to school.

Fresno's explosive population growth has dramatically impacted the education system and its ability to provide effective services to youth. Student enrollment in Fresno Unified School District has been among the fastest growing in the State and now stands as third largest. Projected enrollment will reach 100,000 by the year 2000. This would require 28 new schools and 1,000 new teachers amidst a time of increased budget cuts and staff layoffs.

TEEN PREGNANCY

One of the major contributing factors to dropout rates is teen pregnancy. Pregnancy is the main reason teen girls drop out of school. Out of 100 female students entering the 10th grade, only 68 are expected to complete the 12th grade.

At a Youth Summit last year an Fresno, about 300 youth gathered to discuss Fresno County's dubious distinction of having the third highest rate of teen pregnancy in California. Youth leaders at the summit claimed 4,000 teens will become pregnant in Fresno County in 1 year and half will give birth. Fresno's teen-headed AFDC households is approximately 700 and the number continues to rise. The State Department of Education states the number one reason for females dropping out of school is due to pregnancy and parenting.

According to observations at the 1991 Youth Summit, teen pregnancy is a pressing issue that contributes not only to dropout rates, but also to crime, drugs, and other issues—specifically, youth gangs.

CRIME/YOUTH GANGS

According to FBI figures released in April 1992, Fresno, with 124 crimes per 1,000 residents, had the second-highest crime rate in the State. Fresno stands second only to Oakland, with 126 crimes per 1,000 residents.

Fresno's robbery statistics increased 55 percent in 1 year. Authorities said this directly stems from more youth committing strong-armed robberies.

In the City of Fresno in 1991, property crime jumped 36 percent, violent crime increased 10 percent and car theft skyrocketed.

One quarter of those arrested for felony crimes in Fresno in 1990 were under age 18. The number of juvenile felony arrests in Fresno rose three times as fast from 1989 through 1990 as the city's total number of felony arrests.

Many facets of Fresno life have contributed to the growing youth gang problem: the city's diversity, access on the Freeway 99 corridor, and its increasing population. Add to these the high poverty rate, disintegration of the family structure, and a lack of supervised programs for youth—growth of gangs is inevitable.

Gang membership in the Fresno area increased 43 percent from June 1990 to June 1991, according to the Fresno Police Youth Gang Task Force. They estimate there are about 1,790 hard-core members in 61 identified youth street gangs. This translates into one in 15 young men, ages 10 through 18, in metropolitan Fresno belongs to a gang. This ratio places Fresno's problem in league with big-city gangs. Additionally, officials say, there may be as many as 5,000 potential gang members, called "wannabes." Close friends or girl friends of members, they may aid or commit crimes for the gang.

Based on this estimate, as many as one in eight youth ages 10 through 18 are associated, in some way, with a gang.

As gang membership increases, juvenile crime escalates. Officials maintain no statistics on gang-related crime in Fresno. But estimates show 70 percent of juvenile crime is committed by youth affiliated with gangs.

Herein lies an enormous cost to Fresno area residents. Gangs have committed (1990–1991) up to 2,800 burglaries taking up to $2.7 million in property. Gangs have stolen up to 3,700 cars and trucks. Gangs are directly related to over 50 percent of Fresno drug activity.

Roughly 125 juveniles from Fresno County are already sent to the California Youth Authority each year—many if not most convicted of violent crimes. In addition, last month Fresno County officials announced a new "get tough" policy on juveniles convicted of violent crimes and felonies involving weapons to be more of less automatically shipped off to the California Youth Authority. Presumably more juveniles will be going to CYA. As an editorial in the *Fresno Bee* (July 8, 1992) observed: "The problem is that classifying more juveniles as unredeemable predators and sending them off for a master's degree in crime at the CYA doesn't really do anything to restore the county's gutted juvenile justice system.

Another indicator of youth living in dysfunctional families and youth at-risk is the number of runaways. Law enforcement projects there will be more than 4,000 runaway youth in Fresno in 1992. Runaway youth are at-risk of becoming pregnant, using drugs, participating in criminal behavior, becoming victims of violent crimes, and becoming a greater risk of academic underachievement and dropping out.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Documentation shows that when crime rises, a major underlying reason is a rise in unemployment. Over the past several years, Fresno County's unemployment rate has been two to three times the State and national averages.

In January 1992, Fresno's overall unemployment rate was 14.6, while the State average was at 7.7 percent. Unemployment rates in the central San Joaquin Valley are as high as 20 percent. Historically, Fresno's youth unemployment rate has been two to three times higher than the average for the general population (State Employment Development Department, 1992). According to the 1990 Census, nearly 23 percent of those youth ages 16 to 19 are unemployed.

Children and youth are often most dramatically affected by poor economic conditions. They may live in depressed areas of the community, lack educational and cultural options, may not have positive adult employment models in their lives, and are at risk of spending the rest of their lives on assistance. Since 1980, the number of individuals receiving some form of public assistance in Fresno has increased by 69 percent. As of March 1992, 3,500 homeless children and their families are being housed in Fresno Shelters.

NEED FOR JOB CORPS CENTER

Opportunities that a Job Corps Center can offer can spell only wise investments for our community. Most youth service providers agree on the common theme, "Either we pay now or we pay later, but later we may not be able to afford the price." It would seem a small price to pay indeed, if Job Corps financially returns $1.46 for each dollar invested.

The investment will be realized even more with a Job Corps established in this area. Currently, Fresno youth interested in the Job Corps residential program must apply then be placed on a waiting list to go to San Jose, Sacramento, Los Angeles, or San Diego. Geographically and resourcewise, the Fresno area boasts an ideal location for a Job Corps Center to serve Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Mariposa, and Merced counties.

The human resources necessary to operate the center would be available: CSUF offers graduates in all academic fields including business, engineering, agricultural, et cetera; and FCC also provides graduates trained in vocational fields such as automotive, construction, plumbing, electrical and others.

Additionally, community-based organizations needed to support a Job Corps Center, have proven track records in their experience in working with youth. For example, EOC sponsors such programs as Project Pride alternative school, youth and adult employment and training programs, Washington Street Home for runaways, and The Sanctuary/Y.O.U. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) Center offering shelter and support services.

To realize a successful Job Corps Center, Fresno enjoys a true spirit of community partnerships among businesses, public agencies, schools, and community-based organizations.

Clearly, what is seen to be an over-riding solution would be to place priorities on preventative measures: to identify at-risk youth and race to their rescue, those in danger of becoming violent. To combat the problems facing youth, means providing some role model or support structure, either in the family or outside of it. Providing these supports, as in a Job Corps Center, must be a priority for Fresno to effect change in the cycle of poverty and its ensuing crime, homelessness, and gang activities.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Williams, for your poignant remarks. Mr. Lehman, do you have any questions?

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say that we have just heard from the best EOC director in the Nation. That's not me talking, that is everyone that you come in contact with who knows Joe Williams. We have the finest operation here in Fresno run by him, of any place in the country. Again, that's not just me, that's me running into people in Washington and them asking me if I know Joe Williams and telling me about him.

He has already taken the initiative with his board here. As he mentioned, yesterday I went out and visited a youth hostel that they have set up here in Fresno where they are taking runaways and getting them into a new environment, and teaching them some self-esteem and giving them the opportunity to change their lives. That is also available, I guess, as a place—it's a youth center, a place to come.

What Joe has done is testimony that if the resources are available we have the will and we have the people to make it work constructively. If we are going to have a Job Corps center in Fresno, Joe Williams is going to play a very significant role if not the most significant role, in making that happen.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Mr. Lehman. Mr. Martinez.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Thank you, Mr. Perkins. I don't have much to say. I don't have a question, because I certainly agree with everything that Mr. Williams has said. We have shared this philosophy for a while. Certainly, when Lehman says if you ask, do you know

Joe Williams, the response really is, do I know Joe Williams. His reputation precedes him in a lot of places.

I think that everything that you have said here today is very true and it's appropriate, I think, your analysis of the President's acceptance speech last night. He did spend a lot of time talking about they changed the world. The problem is that he hasn't looked at it here, at home, where we haven't changed anything not at least for the better. We may have changed it for the worse.

He somewhere in his speech alluded to things that have to be done here. Here again it's his way, not the way that it really can be done. He talked about Congress being a distraction. The fact is that it isn't Congress that's vetoing the bills like the unemployment extension. He's the one that is vetoing it. Congress didn't veto the Civil Rights Bill. They passed it out. He vetoed it.

So, if you really dissect his speech, it's really more of the same failed policies of the last 12 years that have resulted in the crisis that we have today, not those great society programs of the 1960's which Job Corps is one of them. It is the fact that we have not funded those programs to the extent that we really needed to, and although we have had a positive impact on those people that have been affected by those programs that impact has been very small. We just simply have not reached enough people with the program.

I appreciate your being here today, Joe, and I appreciate your statement. I am glad to hear from Rick that you are going to be working with us to see this thing come a reality.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you very much, Congressman.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you, Congressman Martinez. Without further questions, I think we have had a good hearing today. I appreciate all of you coming. I think it has been a very positive experience. I thank Congressman Lehman, again, for the opportunity to come and listen to the unique problems and needs this area has.

With that, I think we will adjourn this hearing. Good day.

[Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the subcommittee recessed, to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows.]

STATEMENT OF JEFFREY B. HARRIS, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

BIA has recently been informed that a field hearing is scheduled on August 21, 1992 to discuss the possibility of locating a Job Corps Center in Fresno. Unfortunately, I have prior commitments for that day and I am unable to attend to express BIA's longstanding support for this concept. This letter serves as a letter of support for locating a Job Corps Center in Fresno.

As you are aware, currently one out of every three residents of Fresno County receives some form of public assistance. This is a tragic statistic which is unsustainable and will ultimately bankrupt this county. The Building Industry Association believes that one method to help alleviate this imbalance is through programs to support the youth of our community. The location of a Job Corps Center in Fresno would provide extremely valuable training to the underprivileged youth in our region while supplying a well-trained workforce for local employers. Job Corps statistics show that the location of a Job Corps Center is highly cost-effective and has longterm beneficial results to the local economy.

For these reasons the Building Industry Association endorses the location of a Job Corps Center in Fresno. We respectfully request your diligent and aggressive efforts to support the location of a Job Corps Center in Fresno. If you have any questions regarding this position please don't hesitate to contact me.

POTENTIAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IMPACT RESULTING
FROM CREATION OF A LOCAL
JOB CORP CENTER

The following information is presented in an attempt to identify potential impact on the justice system should a local Job Corp Center be created. Job Corp is administered pursuant to Title IV, Part B, of the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982 ("J.T.P.A."). The program is operated by the Office of the Job Corp within the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor.

Target Population

The target population identified for service through the Job Corp matches a considerable number of minors and young adults referred through the justice system. The Job Corp has identified a target population of youth from low income environments characterized by the following:

1. High unemployment rates, particularly among youth
2. Descrimination because of race, religion, or place of national origin
3. Substandard housing with overcrowded and unhealthy living conditions
4. Disruptive homes, many without a father's or mother's influence, where family attitudes are not supportive of continued learning and discovery and of the development of talents and aspirations

Specific selection criteria for the Job Corp require the following:

1. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 to 24
2. School dropout
3. Youth who are unable to find or hold suitable jobs or lack marketable skills or expressed vocational goals

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4. Have had poor school performance and limited educational achievement
5. Have a self-concept of defeat and failure

Exclusionary criteria identified by the Job Corp are:

1. Serious and repeat offenders
2. Active narcotic addicts, and
3. Youth with serious emotional and psychological disorders

In presenting a description of the typical Job Corp enrollee for 1985, the following information was presented: ". . . Economically disadvantaged 18 year old high school dropout who was a member of a minority, read at the sixth grade level at program entry, was never employed full-time, and came from a family receiving either public assistance or an average of $6,114 in annual income. Roughly, 40 percent of all new enrollees during this period had prior arrest records."

The information presented by the Job Corp in terms of their target population is consistent with observations of youth processed through the juvenile and adult courts in Fresno County. Based on bookings to the Juvenile Hall, minority youth are overrepresented in the local juvenile justice system. Statistics for 1990 reflect Juvenile Hall bookings from the top five ethnic groups.

ETHNIC	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
White	884	249	1,133
Hispanic	2,299	376	2,675
Black	661	100	761
American Indian	22	4	26
Southeast Asians	349	11	360

Fresno County crime patterns fit the national trend with the majority of offenses committed by individuals between the ages of 16 and 24. National statistics reflect that this age group is responsible for the majority of crime in our communities. Common characteristics among Fresno County's offenders are consistent with the Youth Corp selection criteria. Common characteristics among the delinquent/criminal population in Fresno County nave previously been identified as follows:

- Minority group status
- Destructive family dysfunction with a high frequency of single parent homes
- Experience of failure in the traditional school setting
- Youth with a history of truancy and low academic progress resulting in a grade placement at least two years behind age appropriate grade
- Low income status
- Low self-image and lack in self-esteem
- Residing in depressed areas with a high occurrence of crimes and delinquency
- Living in substandard housing or dependent upon public housing
- Has often gone beyond the experimental phase of substance abuse
- Lacks history of employment or marketable job skills
- Family history often reveals patterns of violence and/or victimization

Two major causative factors for crime and delinquency focus 1) on the level of poverty in the Fresno community, and 2) failure within the educational system. Both of these conditions could be addressed through participation in Youth Corp programming. Recent reports on the frequency of poverty identify Fresno County as having one of the highest child youth

poverty rates in the state and the nation. Dropout rates in the local school districts range from 25 - 30 percent. Certain high schools with high registration of minority students have reported dropout rates as high as 57 percent. Alternative school opportunities are lacking and the district has extremely limited vocational training resources. At the same time, minority students reflect the highest percentage levels of student suspensions and explusions. Teenage pregnancies and the frequency of low birth weight is among the highest in the state.

Conclusion

The justice system could make adequate numbers of referrals to a Job Corp Center, although the exact number of adult offenders between the age of 18 - 24 is uncertain, it is estimated that over 50 percent of the approximately 18,000 existing adult probation cases are comprised from this age group. The Juvenile Probation Department, in 1991, had approximately 12,000 cases referred for intervention. Of the 12,000, approximately one third were handled through formal court process; the remaining two thirds were handled informally or through diversion programs.

In comparing the Job Corp's recruitment criteria and the common characteristics noted among Fresno County's delinquent and young adult offender population, it would appear that Fresno County has an extreme need for programs and services from a local Job Corp facility. Significant interventions like Job Corp are essential in working with offenders when they first enter the justice system. Existing conditions have resulted in the majority of resources in the correctional system being directed toward hard core repeat offenders. The availability of a Job Corp Center would provide a significant intervention in working with first time offenders when they are

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most amenable to a Job Corp program. The fact that youthful offenders upon reaching age 18 move from Juvenile Court jurisdiction to Adult Court jurisdiction often creates a "break" in service delivery. Having a Job Corp facility available for young adult offenders, ages 18 - 24, would provide a significant continuity of service to a population that is underserved through existing educational or vocational training resources.

The availability of a local Job Corp Center would have a major positive impact on the local justice system. The Job Corp program has previously identified a positive outcome rate of 81.3 percent and it is felt that many youthful offenders who meet either the Youth Corp application criteria or the characteristics of youthful offenders in Fresno County would benefit from participation in Youth Corp programs.

Although Probation status does not exclude an individual from participation, it is understood that the Job Corp is not intended to exclusively accept referrals from the justice system; however, previous Job Corp statistics do reflect a pattern of prior arrest that is common among Job Corp participants. It appears that the opportunity which would be created by a local Job Corp Center for educational and training alternatives could have significant impact on the lives of youthful offenders and the justice system. Creation of such a local Job Center for the Fresno County area is strongly urged.

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